

[5th March 1927]

PRESENT—*cont.*

Tireman, C.I.E., Mr. H.
 Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
 Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
 Vanavudalaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
 Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
 Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
 Venkataratnam, Mr. B.

Venkiah, Mr. S.
 Wood, Mr. C. E.
 Zamindar of Gollapalli.
 Zamindar of Kallikota.
 Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
 Zamindar of Seithur.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927-28—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Before we proceed to the discussion on the Budget, I wish to inform the House that I have limited the time for each Speaker to eight minutes except the two Leaders of the Opposition parties."

*Khan Bahadur S. K. ABDUL RAZACK SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, let me first congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the budget that he has presented to us. It is a matter for gratification that this year when a new set of members of this Council have come into office we have the good fortune that the Imperial impost is likely to be completely remitted, giving us some scope to take up the pending schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of this Presidency. In the allocation of the surplus now available, we trust that the Madras Government will take good care to spend the money on non-recurring items of permanent utility—I mean water-supply, medical relief and the like. There are many places where the introduction of water-supply has materially reduced if not wiped out all water-borne diseases like cholera. The value of the lives thus saved cannot be calculated in terms of rupees, annas and pies. And I would strongly urge that instead of insisting on a half-and-half contribution in every case and permanently crippling the resources of the municipal councils and our local boards or postponing the introduction of such schemes, the Government may utilize the windfall to pay three-fourths if not the entire cost of water-supply schemes. Then again the scheme of rural dispensaries inaugurated by the Raja of Panagal has been the source of immense good to the rural population. If that scheme could be furthered and supplemented by every dispensary in a municipal area being converted into a hospital so that ordinary ailments may be treated in the villages and complicated cases and major operations may be attended to in municipal areas good and lasting benefit would be conferred on the people of this country. It is a known fact that many of the local bodies have not enough funds to run their services efficiently and to the standard expected of them in these modern days. It is therefore necessary that whenever there is an unexpected and unusual surplus or windfall, it should be utilized so as to benefit the largest number of people and should cater to the primary needs of man, that is water to drink and medicine to ward off diseases. If therefore this remission is utilized to install some more water-supply schemes and to open additional dispensaries in villages and to raise the status of dispensaries in municipal areas, we would be able to give a good account of the money entrusted to us. Sir, the appalling figures of infant mortality go to show that more care is needed in the case of expectant mothers and women in labour. If in each village school a midwife can be employed as a teacher, her services will be available to the local women in a contingency, and the way would be paved for the introduction of a set of trained and qualified midwives throughout the length and breadth of this Presidency. The pay of these midwives can be met by local bodies with

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friends of the Government, and I request you, Sir, from the bottom of my heart, at least to do something for elevating the position of the industrial classes and earn their lasting gratitude."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Although 41 hon. Members have taken part in these discussions till now, there still remain many Members who are anxious to take part in the same; so I propose, with the consent of the Leaders of the House and of the Opposition, not to take up any questions to-morrow, but to devote the whole of to-morrow for these discussions. As already intimated, the afternoon of to-morrow will be allotted to hon. Members of the Treasury Bench for their replies."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



[Mr. A. Parasurama Rao]

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force, for it is a small place where preventive action could be taken sufficiently early and knowing the feelings between the two parties all this trouble could have been conveniently avoided. So much, Sir, for the hon. the Law Member to ponder over and see his way for an early abolition of this unjust measure at no distant date; for he will thereby earn the thanks of the people of the locality. I am told that the collections for the current year are going on. If the hon. Member is pleased to agree with me, he will certainly see that the collections are not levied.

“One other subject I wish to advert to. The following may appear to hon. Members to be a novel suggestion, but still I want to venture it.

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“Sir, there are three kinds of overseers working in one and the same area, viz, the local fund overseer, the Department of Public Works overseer and the minor irrigation overseer. The same area has to be supervised by these three officers. I think it becomes unnecessary that three officers should be under the control of three different departments separately as that causes much inconvenience. Each overseer has not enough of work, but at the same time he has to travel over a larger area and at the same time cannot devote the necessary attention. When he goes to any areas where there are no facilities of transport, much time is taken up in travelling itself; and further there is another danger by giving him a larger area. He has to maintain a conveyance which means a large drain upon his purse, and that again means that he must resort to objectionable means of maintaining it. To save all this trouble I would suggest that all these three officers may be placed under the control of local bodies. Minor irrigation is purely for the benefit of the people and it is really in the interest of the people to have the control over minor irrigation. I do not speak of the big schemes like the Mettur project or any such thing which may be reserved for the superior officers of the Government Department. So far as these officers I have mentioned above are concerned, there is absolutely no fear, and they can safely be placed under the control of the local bodies. I would suggest that this is just the time when the authorities concerned could take up this suggestion in right earnest and see that all these three officers are placed under the control of one and the same authority, I mean the local bodies.

“Then, I have to say one thing so far as the Budget itself is directly concerned. The hon. Member for Finance is no doubt very liberal and lavish so far as the Government servants are concerned. I advisedly call them Government servants, and I do not call them public servants because they are not amenable to the public. He is no doubt very free in providing them with quarters, allowances and everything that is necessary.”

* Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—“Mr. President, Sir, I desire to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for so lucidly presenting the Budget as to enable even a military man like myself easily to follow it. It is a great satisfaction that there would be a decent surplus. I belong to Salem. Time and again so many Members have urged its claims on the floor of this hon. House for greater irrigation facilities. I also urged on a former occasion the necessity for some provision for Salem to partake in the benefits of the Mettur project. There is a cry in Salem that the Government have taken a large area of land in the district promising the people that they would be given irrigation facilities, but to their utter disappointment they have found, fortunately not too late, that they are not to get even an inch of earth within that blessed zone from the project.

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The people of my district are ready to pay the extra assessment that may be levied by the Government. I hope the hon. the Law Member will remember Salem in that connexion and earn the gratitude of its people.

"The sanitary condition of Salem requires much attention. During the four years of my residence at Salem after I retired, I had to leave the place twice temporarily owing to plague. In the distribution of funds for improving public health and sanitation, Salem deserves and should receive a large and sympathetic attention. I hope the hon. the Minister for Public Health will pay an early visit to Salem when I hope he will himself see the condition of the place and feel the necessity for sustained effort to improve its sanitation. The time allowed to me being very limited, I stop my speech so soon."

* Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, hon. Member after Member has congratulated the hon. the Finance Member. Perhaps, that is the formality of the day. But I strove hard, Sir, to at least follow the formula of congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on his voluminous Budget which has been presented to us. But I am sorry I could not find any good reason to congratulate him, for I do not see anything that is really going to benefit the country at large. Now, Sir, we are in the Reform days. What the Reforms have done and how they have benefited us are questions that are to be tackled and to be seriously considered. The Reforms have landed us only in grand Council halls like this, given us Indian Executive Councillors, Members on the Treasury Benches, Ministers, Secretaries, Under Secretaries and so forth involving very great expenditure amounting to lakhs and crores taken out of the poor rate-payers' money. But all the same if the Reforms could help the villager at the distant end, that would be some consolation and solace. But there seems to have been nothing of the sort at all for the last six years. Sir, there is what is called local self-government under this administration. It is a misnomer. It may rather be called the foreign-non-self-government. It is local self-government only in name. I as a member of the Council of the Madras Corporation have known instances after instances when this local self-government institution was treated like a school boy by this Government. The Act as it is, Sir, has got many imperfections and defects, and the Reformed Council has not thought it fit to amend the Act, as it is their imperative duty to do. The Commissioner is thrust on the Corporation by the Government though his salary after all is paid by the Corporation, out of the money collected from the coffers of the rate-payers. But he is not solely responsible to the Corporation. Is this self-government, Sir, I ask? He is an autocrat of autocrats and he is only responsible for the Secretary to Government and Under Secretary with whom he can correspond by means of demi-officials and un-officials and what not. Sir, that is our position so far as local self-government is concerned. The Government have tied to neck of the Corporation big mill stones in the shape of the drainage and Mambalam schemes and so forth, but when funds are asked for, they evince a spirit of retaliation and behave like school children. For instance, Sir, in the great city of Dublin, how is it the tramways there, though owned by a rich man, Martin Murphy yet he has no representation on the Corporation of that city such as what we have called as instituted councillors and nominated councillors. These instituted councillors and nominated councillors come in because they want to be represented on the

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Corporation. It is said that it is foreign capital which is invested in Madras and as such their interests have got to be safeguarded. Where is the foreign capital? Have they brought it from England, or from Ireland or from Wales? It is all Indian capital. From the Indian banks and the Imperial Bank they get their over-drafts. Spencer & Co. can get an over-draft to the extent of even 90 lakhs. Which Indian company can get any amount as over-draft, Sir? This is the farce of the instituted councillors. And then there is the farce of the nominated councillors. The nomination is of defeated candidates. They can come in through any door. If they can only dance attendance at the doors of Government officers, if they are only experts in crow-catching and dancing to the tunes and according to the whims of the Members in charge, they can get nominations. That is the nomination, Sir. Instituted councillors are sent in there simply to come and vote against a resolution that may be brought forward by the nationalist party. So also the Justice party men who are nominated by the hon. Ministers. Is this local self-government, Sir?

"Further, there are several other things. Take, for instance, the Cooum affair, a thing that is hanging like a Damocles' sword on the health of the people of the city. What have the Government done for it? They say that unless the Corporation is prepared to finance they are not going to take it up. Unless the Cooum question is tackled by the Government, I warn the Government that they would be committing a serious mistake. If that is not tackled—and it can only be tackled by making it a navigable river—the health of the people can never be improved. But the Government are going on with their Pykhara and pythyakara schemes and Mettur project, ignoring the metropolis, the chief metropolis, the capital of the whole Presidency. Lakhs and lakhs are being doled away for ஸெப்திமெட்டர் schemes, but what about the Cooum scheme, Sir, that has been facing you for the past so many years? They have been going on considering it for the last ten years and nothing has come out of it.

"That is the condition of local self-government.

"Then, what is the matter in the case of the High Court, Sir? You are going on increasing the Judges and arrears are also going on increasing side by side. That is the state of affairs and there is the official referee, and why he is there we do not know. That means the litigants pay not only the stamp duty and court-fees already enhanced by 5 per cent, but again they have got to pay to the official referee to whom the matter is referred and who is recruited from the bar or from some other place. Those litigants are hard pressed like anything. There is the official assignee who goes on waxing fat on his commission, he not being appointed on any salary. There is the prosecuting inspector who can sell his office. Sale of offices, sale of nominations and what not. If I say some thing more on it it will not be good."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Merely in order to understand the argument of my hon. Friend, I should like his statement repeated about prosecuting inspectors and sale of offices. I did not quite follow what the hon. Member had said."

MR. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"The Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Adam, when he took leave, himself appointed one Mr. Ayyangar to act in his place and there was some arrangement entered into between them, but not appointed by the Government. That is what I may. . . ."

(At this stage the gong was sounded.)

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* Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, several of the hon. Members of the House showered congratulations on the hon. the Finance Member, but I am sorry I have to say that I am not so fortunate as to share in their pleasure at congratulating him. There is absolutely nothing in the budget for which I can congratulate the hon. Member for Finance. For several years past, whenever the question of irrigation of the Ceded districts came under consideration of this House, several hon. Members have given expression to their sympathy. And I naturally thought that the cumulative effect of all those expressions of sympathy would have a wholesome influence upon the Government and that sympathy would be seen in the budget figures. But, unfortunately, the budget figures prove to us that all these expressions have fallen flat upon the ears of the Government. There has recently been an Irrigation Committee for the Ceded districts which was appointed by the Government and that committee was asked to submit proposals for the improvement of irrigation and water-supply in the Ceded districts. The Committee was not given all the facilities which it ought to have been given. It was not given the time which ought to have been given. But in spite of all these disabilities, it finished its labours and submitted recommendations for some schemes.

“ But naturally I thought that as the recommendation came from a body created by the Government, Government would sympathize with the recommendations and do something. But the budget has proved that even the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee has had absolutely no effect upon the Government. Now, on many occasions the hon. the Law Member himself said, and I remember well these things: ‘ Well I do know the Ceded districts. I know also there is much scope for the improvement of the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts. I do sympathize with the people. I do have a great mind to do something for the people but unfortunately owing to the absence of an irrigation law I am unable to do anything.’ These words coming from such a high dignitary created a cheering hope in the hearts of the people. But unfortunately the budget has proved that our hopes are not at all to be realized. The budget has disclosed the almost indomitable love the hon. the Law Member has for the demon, I may say the big-bellied devil, the Mettur project. If I remember right he even said that he would be able to convert the Ceded districts into a veritable smiling garden and that the day will soon come when there will be a spectacle of extensive green crops in the place of the arable lands that we now have. We waited to see whether he intends to do what he said he would try to do. Somehow or other we have now the Mettur project which has possessed him or is possessing him like a devil. It has blinded him to the requirements of the other districts and it has made him callous to the suffering of the less fortunate districts, especially the Ceded districts. Whatever that may be it is a slur on this House itself and the whole world will brand the Council incompetent if such injustices should be allowed to be perpetrated. Thousands and thousands of people in the Ceded districts are simply raising a hue and cry and are actually dying for want of drinking water and I do not see why the Government should think of the Mettur project which has the power of devouring all the money that can be raised for the purpose of improving irrigation. There is another thing to which I would invite the attention of the House and which finds a place in the budget of the hon. the Finance Member. He says, ‘ it is comforting to

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think that we are not compelled to reduce programme of works which provides employment to the country. On the contrary under irrigation works, under minor irrigation works and civil works our budget for 1927--28 provides for an additional expenditure of 41 lakhs.' This in my opinion is a misrepresentation. Well, Sir, you know what the Ceded districts are and particularly what the Kurnool district is and what the conditions prevailing now are. You know that the district is experiencing famine and especially now on account of the failure of the monsoons the people's difficulties are very very miserable. They are leading very miserable lives and thousands of people are migrating to the other districts in search of food and labour. Well in this poor district a small project called Theppayagraham project was investigated and reported upon. The Government approved of the scheme proposed and sanctioned it. After forty to fifty thousand rupees had been spent all on a sudden the project has been given up. For what reason, God only knows and next to Him Government only knows. There was another project called Thokapally project similarly proposed, reported upon and similarly sanctioned and an amount of nearly two lakhs was spent on it and it was suddenly given up and God knows what the reason would be. If I should be asked to offer the reason for it all that I can say that it is the Mettur project that stands in the way of these projects. And now the hon. the Finance Member says under irrigation works, under minor irrigation works and civil works the budget provides an additional expenditure of 41 lakhs. I do not know how. There are several small tanks spread throughout the district constructed in pre-British days by experts. They have fallen into ruins. If the restoration of these minor tanks all over the district is taken up it would give labour to the people and stop the recurring famines. But the Government thinks only of the Mettur project. Well I just wish to take this opportunity of referring to a small tank in Cumbum built by the Queen of Krishna Devaraya called Varadarajamma about 400 years ago and which has an ayacut of 7,000 acres. It yields an annual income in normal years of about a lakh of rupees. Till thirty years ago no man knew it drying up except in twenty or thirty years."

* Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—' Mr. President, Sir, I hesitate to take part in this general discussion on the budget and I do not want to let myself simply go as my hon. Friend Mr. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu did. (Cries of 'Order, order.') I confess I have not been able to unravel mysteries of the budget or understand all the intricacies thereof and even if I have done so I am unable to add anything new to what has already been said by the various speakers of the House, some marked by conspicuous ability and rich experience. But I do want to take this opportunity of making one or two observations on the budget from the point of view of the depressed classes. Before doing so, I wish to join and I do join in the chorus of tribute that was paid to the hon. the Finance Minister. (A voice: He is not yet a Minister.) I mean the hon. the Finance Member on the presentation of the budget which as Mr. Wood observed is a very business-like one. I do also want to congratulate him on the bright prospect he has of getting the total remission of the provincial contribution. Now, Sir, adverting to the subject of the budget, one thing that must strike even a casual reader of the budget estimates is the disparity that exists between the allotment for the depressed classes and that for other items. I thought this would have attracted the attention of the previous speakers and probably it did. None of them referred

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to it. It is, I hope, due to the fact that, without being indifferent to the lot of the depressed classes, they left it to be referred to by the depressed class members themselves. Now, the inadequacy of the allotment for the depressed classes is the point that I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Finance Member. I never thought, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member who was the first protector of the depressed classes would have neglected the interests of the depressed classes. Considering the importance and the urgency of the problem of the depressed classes and considering also the fact that there is such a unanimous opinion as to the upliftment of the depressed classes, it is really strange that the hon. the Finance Member should not have taken advantage of the spirit of the times to make a better provision for the depressed classes. I am quite sure that every hon. Member of this House, whether official or non-official, whether Swarajist or no-changer, whether Brahman or non-Brahman, is alive to the importance and the urgency of this problem. This disparity becomes all the more grave when you compare it with one particular item which has never failed to catch the eye of any speaker, viz., the Cauvery-Mettur project. In this connexion, I want to say that if the hon. the Law Member were an Adi-Dravida or what is more practicable an Adi-Dravida were the Law Member endowed with the capacity to, he would bring round the Finance Member to his point of view we would find that allotment under the miscellaneous heads swelling. (Hear, hear.) From that point of view, I would certainly say that we are sadly disappointed at this budget, and that it looks as if the Government in presenting this budget is merely performing its annual ceremony with its high priest, the Finance Member, who goes through the necessary formalities, most of which have no meaning or significance or value to us. I am not making these observations to attack the Government. It is only to bring to the notice of the Government that, having regard to the importance and urgency of the matter and having regard also to the fact that it covers a fairly great proportion of the population of this Presidency, the hon. the Finance Member ought to have made a better provision. In this connexion, I wish to refer to a term that was used by a friend of mine in one of those friendly conversations outside the walls of the House. He said that 'you depressed class members are grumblers.' Grumblers we are, and grumblers we must be in the present state of society. I value that word 'grumbler.' It really connotes the present stage in our political development. It is also useful in this respect that it really provides a clue to the classification of the people that come in to share all the revenues of the Government. As long as there are grabbers, there must be grumblers. I think one has got to be a grumbler before he becomes a grabber. I leave alone the class of people whom I shall call 'gapers' who say they have nothing to do with the Government. The other aspect is that the various allotments that have been made may be said to have been made for the improvement of the condition of the masses. To one who does not know the social conditions of the country, it will look quite alright. He will say that this is a budget which is meant for and which has given really good provision for the improvement of the condition of the masses. We all know that in the actual working the departments are being worked by the caste Hindus for their benefit. We know that in practice benefits are not really conferred upon the depressed classes. I do not think hon. Members will deny that in the natural working of the departments the depressed classes benefit the least except here and there where the officers are individually interested in the welfare of the depressed

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classes. I want specially to appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to provide for special schools and for a residential high school, especially in the city of Madras. You know how very difficult it is to get admission in the various schools and colleges, if not on the ground of untouchability at least certainly, on the ground of inefficiency."

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a.m.

Mr. B. Venkataratnam then made a speech in Telugu.

* Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"Sir, two hon. Members on the Government Benches have been peculiarly fortunate in getting praises after praises on this budget—I mean the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. the Law Member. Dealing with the first hon. Gentleman, I wish to say that there is nothing for which we on this side of the House have to be grateful to him for this budget. I can only see two things in the budget, and these are, lakhs and crores of rupees allotted for buildings and secondly, lakhs and crores on high salaries. I wish the hon. Members of this Government would go and see the ruins in Delhi. If they do that, they would not hug to the idea of spending lakhs and crores on big buildings.

"So far as salaries are concerned, we have on the one hand very high salaries, and on the other, hundreds and thousands of Government servants starving on very low, inadequate pay. I wish the hon. Members of Government would try to live on Rs. 35 or Rs. 50 a month and then talk about the revising of the salaries of the low-paid subordinates. I am told, Sir, that on a representation of the non-gazetted officers, the Government have said that they had raised their salaries only recently, that the prices have now gone down and therefore they must thank themselves if the salaries are not now cut down. I wish the hon. Gentlemen on the other side who draw thousands after thousands every month would try to live on Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 a month and then think of cutting down the salaries of those people who get barely enough for their maintenance. I will say that the only consequence of this has been that there is a great deal of corruption in the departments of every branch of this Government. I have no hesitation in saying it. I concede that every form of Government, bureaucratic or other, should be corrupt to some extent because every human institution is imperfect. But nowhere does corruption exist so much as in a bureaucratic system of Government, and that is my reason why this form of Government should go.

"Secondly, coming to the hon. the Law Member, we are to congratulate him, it has been said, for the crores of rupees which have been allotted for the Mettur project and the Pykara scheme and so on. To me, Sir, every pie spent on these big projects is so much unwisely wasted at this time of the day for the reason that we have not the real power to control the purchase of stores made outside India. If crores of rupees are now spent, I have no doubt that they go mostly to benefit the British capitalists. Secondly, a good deal goes to the British experts for their salaries in connexion with these projects, and again, another big sum for the mamul of the departments concerned. As long as we have no real power to control these large projects involving as they do crores of rupees, it is very much better not to embark on them just at present.

"Then, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Law Member a few points about the mufassal courts in this Presidency because I am a lawyer myself and I know where the shoe pinches. I do not wish to deal with the

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Honourable the High Court because I do not know much about it. But about the mufassal courts, I have no hesitation in saying that we are not having nowadays British justice but British disposals. Once in three months, the judges have to give returns to the High Court. You may choose the best man in the Bar. But in the unfortunate system obtaining at present in these courts, there is so much congestion of work that even the cleverest man turns a dunce when he becomes a judge. (Laughter) That is my unfortunate experience. There may be exceptions here and there, but that is what it is. There is so much attention paid to disposals that there is no real justice dispensed. If the hon. the Law Member will take it into his mind, I may tell him that there are so frequent postings on the Original side that it is so much inconvenience and expense to the parties in summoning witnesses. Cases which are not at all likely to be reached and cases which are just filed are posted almost every three weeks, because of the system of disposals. I hope some notice of these things will be taken.

"Then, Sir, I wish to offer a few suggestions about the Local Boards Act, which is going to be revised. I wish to point out to the hon the Chief Minister a few points for his consideration in connexion with this matter. I consider that a municipality is too small a unit to be split up. But in the case of local bodies, it is different. We are now having a district board, a taluk board, a union board, the village panchayat, the district educational council and so on. My contention in this respect is that it would make the administration very much more efficacious if you hand over all the educational institutions to the district educational council. Have a separate board for roads, works and other communications. Now, what happens is that if a district board president is careful about roads he is apt to neglect schools, or sanitation. Split it up into two or three bodies. Roads and works for one body. All education, secondary and elementary, to another. Sanitation and Public Health to a third. I think under this system the work will go on very much better. One other evil which is common to the local boards and municipalities is this: the presidents of the local boards and the chairmen of municipalities are veritable Tsars in this province.

"The reason is this. They have got the power of appointing teachers and other servants and also the power of removing them. The powers of these over their staff are too arbitrary. What happens is that at the time of elections these teachers are made to work for them and if they do not, they are either dismissed or shunted on from place to place. A more unfortunate thing which I want to bring to the notice of this House is that in some parts of this side of the country—instances are not rare—lady-teachers are not free from pestering on the part of these autocrats. The remedy I suggest is this. The power of these should be broken up and vested in an executive committee of the board or council concerned. The third thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that the system of nomination should be done away with. (Hear, hear.) On the other hand, I would advocate, if there are communities which have to be represented—I have no doubt there are such communities—you must choose four-fifths or three-fourths by election and leave it to the power of this three-fourths or four-fifths who are representatives of the people to co-opt the others. I know this system obtains in many European countries. There are a great many able people who have a quiet temper but who cannot face an election on account of the vast amount which one has to spend and many other

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things which an election means. For these reasons, I would say that you would enlist the best talent in the country if you adopt this system of co-option.

"Then, so far as the Elementary Education Act is concerned, it seems to contain a provision that the local body concerned must raise a special tax before the Government gives it money. I wish that this provision is taken away; otherwise no municipality or local board will embark on this scheme.

"Lastly, a word to the hon. the Ministers. Of course we have had all sorts of platitudes from Ministers before and we may have them hereafter also. I ask the hon. Ministers whether the salary of Rs. 4,333-5-4 which they have allotted for themselves is not too much, and whether our country can afford this large salary. It is not necessary that because you are in power you must take this large salary and also provide for three council secretaries. I do not think they ought to take anything more than Rs. 2,000 each per month."

* The ZAMINDAR OF KALLIKOTA :—"Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member along with other hon. Members of this House for having presented a surplus budget. I have every hope that this state of finances will continue in the future years.

"It is very gratifying to note the release of the provincial contribution and I would like to see the whole of this remission spent on nation-building departments. Within the few minutes allotted to me, Sir, I wish to make a few observations regarding the budget.

"To start with, irrigation works have been starved and neglected for the sake of providing hundreds of lakhs to the Cauvery-Mettur project, a project which is going to benefit a district where the scarcity of water is hardly felt. While money is lavishly spent on this project, the dry and famine-stricken districts of the Presidency are almost neglected. It is regrettable to note the miserable sums provided in the budget for irrigation projects in the Ganjam district. The Girisola project, the strengthening of the Rushikulya reservoir, the Vamsadhara project and the Dusi-Nagavali anicut are some of the pressing needs in the Ganjam district and I believe estimates are ready for this. I may be corrected if I am wrong in saying that estimates for all these works have been prepared. I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation to these most pressing needs of my district. We from Ganjam, Sir, like the people of Tinnevely, come from the extreme end of the Presidency, about 700 miles away from the Metropolis and we feel our voice is not loud enough to be heard by the Government. The Oriyas of Ganjam are labouring very much under this step-motherly treatment and this is perhaps the chief reason why there is this agitation for the amalgamation of the Oriya speaking tracts with Behar and Orissa, where the Oriyas as a body and under one administration can press for their claims better.

"I would like to know what the present Ministry is going to do regarding the expansion of medical relief in rural areas. The budget provision for medical relief is by no means promising and if the policy of the present Minister is to bring medical relief within the easy reach of the rural population I ask him what has he done towards it. A very good system of giving medical aid to the rural population was started by my hon. Friend the Raja of Panagal, when he was the Chief Minister and it is the duty of

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the present Minister to do his utmost to expand this system. If the hon. the Minister for Public Health wishes to make this system a success he should make provision for at least six rural dispensaries in each taluk board area. The pay of the sub-assistant surgeons working in the rural dispensaries must be increased to Rs. 50 a month. Nobody will in these hard days come for Rs. 33-5-4 a month. In an out-of-the-way village the poor doctor has to establish his name first and get popular before he can command any private practice. The grant for medical equipment of these dispensaries at present is Rs. 350 per annum for each dispensary. The stock of medicines purchased for this sum is perhaps just enough for about six months and for the remaining six months of the year the poor doctor in many cases is compelled to give some coloured water in the name of mixtures to the patients, thereby making the whole system of medical aid unpopular and ineffective. The taluk boards cannot be expected to supplement these grants as their finances do not permit it. It is therefore absolutely necessary for Government to enhance the medical equipment for each dispensary to about Rs. 600 per annum.

"Enough has been said already, Sir, by the hon. Members of this House regarding the most pressing need for supplying drinking water to the millions of the masses of the country who are now at the beginning of the approaching summer feeling the scarcity of water. This seems to be a general cry throughout the Presidency and the Government will be doing the greatest charity if they provide funds generously for the supply of drinking water to the millions of the population. Speaking of my district, Sir, I have to mention that since September last there has been practically no rain except a few showers and to start with the monsoon was a failure. As a result of this the little water that was left in the tanks has been drained to the last drop and everything is barren at present. To add to this misery epidemics like cholera and smallpox are already rampant. The hon. Minister if he wants to do some real and immediate benefit to the people should at once take steps and provide liberal grants for the expansion of water-supply in the rural areas. The local boards so far as I know have fully realized the situation and are doing their best, but the utmost that these boards can do with their present resources will not go far in relieving the distress of the people and I wish therefore to impress on the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government that he should come forward immediately with big grants for the expansion of water-supply in rural areas without imposing any conditions on the local boards.

"Another thing which is perhaps just as important as the supply of drinking water is the construction of village roads. Hundreds of villages in each district have no means of communication of any sort and during the rains it is impossible even to walk to these villages. This is a question that requires the serious and immediate attention of the hon. Minister and I hope that better provision would be made for the construction of village roads.

"According to the present practice grants which are made to local boards have to be spent within the year and anything that has not been spent by the end of the official year lapses to Government. In many cases these grants are made as late as December and the local boards are asked to spend the money before the end of March. They have no estimates ready and have no idea as how to spend the grant to the best benefit of the people, and while they are thinking over these matters and making preparations to start the works the end of March comes and the whole grant lapses. This is a

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very unsatisfactory method of giving out grants. Each local board should be asked to create a Development fund, something like the Elementary Education Fund of taluk boards, and all grants made for particular purposes should be ear-marked and go into this Development fund and spent by the local boards for the ear-marked purpose according to their convenience. The present system of rushing through grants to prevent lapses is most unsatisfactory and in several cases the money is wasted. No grants once made by Government should again lapse to the Government.

"In conclusion I have to mention, Sir, one more need of my district and this is the construction of a bridge over the Rushikulya river on the trunk road of the Ganjam district. A proposal for the construction of the bridge was placed before Government four years ago. Since the Railway are shortly reconstructing their bridge, a proposal was made to make a contribution to the Railway and have a combined railway and road bridge as is the case in certain parts of the Presidency and outside."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, I cannot congratulate the Finance Member on the Budget he has presented to us. Perhaps it is not his fault that the budget has no arresting features and makes no striking appeal to the public by an impressive stride in what are called Nation Building departments. Expenditure on a topheavy administration is in a large measure responsible for the arrest of progress and the humiliating fact has to be recognized that but for the remission of Provincial contribution, a belated justice done to this Presidency, at what cost to the country as a whole we do not yet know, we should have had a disastrous deficit. In a province where the sources of income have come to a standstill, retrenchment should be the watch-word of the administration, but that has always meant in the official code an increase in the higher cadres and the sacrifice of low-paid public servants. For some years the Council had been voting the abolition of the Revenue Board, but the Revenue Board would, like the proverbial cat, appear to have nine lives. Law comes in for a big slice in the expenditure on services; but a great deal of the multiplication of Courts and Judges, especially in the High Court, for clearing off arrears and coping with increased work, can to some extent be minimised by a greater regard to efficiency of persons chosen than to other considerations. Even in the appointment of a Muslim judge to the High Court, I would urge that the Government should be guided by the same consideration of efficiency. While higher services have the due regard paid to their wants, the lower and poorly paid services, especially in the districts, have no chance of their condition being bettered. In spite of the relief given by the removal of the heavy impost, I find no signs of relief to the tax-payer in any direction, nor is the ryot or the trader helped by any reduction in registration and court-fees and stamp duty, though it is admitted by the Finance Member that considerable slackness has come in trade and commerce.

"Now, coming to the Finance Member's doles, there would appear to be no ruling and constructive policy underlying the distribution of grants. Although there is the plea that the Agricultural Commission is now going through the process prior to laying golden eggs which will make the land smile with plenty, still the budget has hardly anything to show the Government's recognition of the need for strengthening agricultural industry and improving the lot of the agriculturists, the bulk of whom are poor and lead a precarious existence. It is the duty of the Government to come to the help

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of the agriculturists in relieving his large indebtedness, by long-term loans at a low or no rate of interest and thus get him out of the hands of the proverbial sowcar. Land mortgage banks have made rapid strides in other countries, and in Ceylon these banks will shortly be funded by Government money till now directed to investments abroad. The policy of investing funds under the control of the Government for purposes of financing of land mortgage banks and such other institutions should be insisted upon and the Government should take the matter seriously. I hope, in view of the recent Bill passed in connexion with land mortgage banks in the Council of State, the Local Government will inaugurate a vigorous policy in favour of land mortgage banks and make the Agricultural Co-operative Societies a real help to the agriculturists in other respects.

"Coming to irrigation, the deserved attention has not been shown to the bettering of minor irrigation works. Minor irrigation is very badly needed in many districts, for instance, in South Arcot and Salem. Many major irrigation schemes await execution and parts of the country, which suffer from defective rainfall and thus fall an easy prey to famine have been left to their fate in preference to those parts not so badly situated. I do not decry the Mettur project. It has advantages which cannot be denied, but this should not stand in the way of projects which are urgently needed in parts which are frequently liable to the visitation of famine. In this connexion I might refer to the question of Indianisation which in spite of all the loud professions of sympathy on the part of the Government has made no adequate advance in any direction. Big schemes like the Mettur project are the best means of advancing Indianisation and affording to Indians the opportunity of acquiring experience and training which they need and the lack of which is often flouted in their face. The Mettur project, apart from its tendency to become a white elephant, is being made also the cosy nest of European officials of the P.W.D., whereas Indians in the P.W.D. possessing the necessary qualifications should naturally predominate with the minimum European element. In this connexion, I should further point out that, in some competent quarters, opinion is held that it is not impossible, as the Law Member is made to understand by the Engineers engaged in the Mettur project, to bring under cultivation additional areas in Salem and Coimbatore under the Mettur project. A mixed committee of local and outside experts should be established for deciding this and other issues, as also the decision reached in connexion with other irrigation projects. The Pykara and Moyar schemes might also be referred to in this connexion. I am glad that the scheme is making a satisfactory progress in spite of opposition from some disappointed quarters and others who have their own axe to grind. This scheme also will afford ample opportunity for the training and employment of Indians in the branch of hydro-electric engineering, while the scheme as a whole by supplying cheap power will give an impetus to indigenous industrial progress.

"Turning now to other industrial activities of the Government, I would first point out that there seems to be no definite industrial policy or programme pursued by the Government. I have gone over the reports of the department of Industries for the last few years and no departmental report is so barren of interest as this."

(Here the hon. Member's time was up and the hon. the President permitted the inclusion in the Official Report of the following undelivered portion of the speech.)

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“ This department, which costs more than 10 lakhs, has been only marking time and keeping up appearances with the so-called activities spread over a large field, but with no definite advance or fruitful results. The axe has to be applied in many directions to this department. Overlapping functions of sections, duplication of works as between this and other departments of Government, want of co-ordination and the existence of some ornamental figure-heads are not the only ills of the department. There is an industrial engineering department which has till now made no researches in industrial engineering useful to industries in this Presidency, in spite of the wasteful existence of a workshop which is not fit for undertaking such work and which contents itself with only showing small book profits. This section has been for some time a purely pumping and boring department and even here, save for the spectacular display of some huge boring machines in the Madras Fair and the Cosmopolitan Club grounds, the boring blessing has not been quite within the reach of poor ryots who need it all the more, while the big landlords seem to have easy access to its use. The real work of this section lies in the districts and not in the City of Madras, and an underground water survey in tracts having no irrigation facilities is the first need to which this section should devote more of its attention than to anything else. There is an industrial education section and, save for a few Government institutions, the work of this section is to dole out grants to missionary so-called industrial schools which are in effect small self-sufficient factories run by their own experts and requiring no direction. The textile section of this department is the biggest, apparently the most useful, but the work here does not come up to the standard which we expect, although something is attempted to be done with the usual step-motherly affection of the Government towards the development of cotton handloom industry. There are other sections which require a lot of pruning. What is necessary is concentration on a few main lines and intense specialisation. I welcome survey of cottage industries, but, unless this is done thoroughly by a competent person, it may prove to be a waste of money. I hope the claim of the charka, cording and ginning will not be excluded from this survey.

“ Turning to education, I do not propose to tread on the ground already traversed by my hon. friends. Primary education, in spite of big advertisements and loud fanfares to which we had been treated some time ago, has made no progress. Public money has been frittered away, but primary education remains where it was, and the percentage of the educated in the country is at a standstill. The work in this respect of the local boards is not at all appreciable and it has to be closely scrutinised and the system thoroughly overhauled. Primary education in agricultural areas must be made the work of part-time schools and provision must be made for vocational training in the Primary and Secondary school if they are to serve any useful purpose. The grant for primary education is still inadequate although it exceeds by 10 lakhs the grant made in the current official year. Muslim education has not received adequate encouragement in all its stages even after the Montford dispensation. The Muhammadan College, the only one of its kind in the Presidency, remains still under-equipped and provides no attraction for students. Though it is called a first-grade college, yet the accompaniments of a first-grade college are hardly found to be there. The number of Primary and Secondary schools started for Muslim population exclusively is very small and the staff employed therein is very inefficient. It is to be noted that in many of the districts the local boards have not

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bestowed the same amount of care and attention on Muslim education as they seem to have done for non-Muslim education. No adequate facilities have been afforded either in the University or in the several colleges in the Presidency for the development of Oriental languages, such as Urdu, Persian and Arabic. Hundreds of institutions wherein these languages are taught still go unrecognized and without a single pie by way of grant-in-aid. The Educational Department itself does not afford any great attraction to the Muslim graduates for want of good prospects therein and save the solitary exception of a single Muslim Educational Officer or two there has been no increase in the number of Muslims holding posts of higher cadre in the Educational Service all these several years.

"Local Self-Government has really received a set-back in many directions and unless the Acts are liberalized and the institutions are free from Government's leading strings will continue to be the farce that they are. If the Ministers are really serious about their business these local self-governing institutions would become really self-governing and not remain what they are. In this connexion I have to point out that the right of nomination to local bodies has not been properly exercised so far as it relates to minority representation. The Muslim community stands to-day most inadequately represented in many of the districts, especially, South Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. Though capable and qualified men are available in the Muslim community still the nominees by the Government on the recommendation of the man on the spot happen to be most unsuited and ill-chosen for the place. It is to be hoped that in future at least there will be no further abuse of the power of nomination vested in the Government and that minority community would be well represented in all the local and municipal bodies throughout the Presidency."

* Mr. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I add my congratulations to those of others bestowed on the hon. the Finance Member for the innovation introduced by him into the form of the budget. But more than that, I am afraid, I have not got much to say in praise of it. Year after year we have listened to the same old story of the figures with little or no variation in it of improvement save the Mettur and Pykara, to indicate the response of the Government to the demands emanating from a wider awakening of the people. It has been said over and over again, here and elsewhere, that one-third of the total revenues of the province is derived from intemperance and ruin of millions of homes and that it is wrong and altogether wrong. It has been pointed out that the arguments advanced in favour of the continuation of the present excise policy are derived from fallacious grounds and questionable expediency. And yet the attitude of the department has been one of insulting indifference. One asks with despair whether a time will come when this great curse will go. I hope the time will come. We look up to that great power which has the law of compensation in its hands. We begin to loose confidence in the well-meant promises of the sojourners of the Treasury Bench. Hand in hand with this monstrous policy there is the pernicious practice of litigation going on unchecked. I wonder whether it is necessary that justice should be made so ruinously costly as it is and whether truth, the basis of justice, should be made so difficult of attainment. One has got only to look at the dubious position of the magistracy in trying to sift facts from fiction which are presented by the litigants with the full knowledge that their success depends upon the mode

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of presentation. To obviate these unnatural defects the question arises whether it is impossible to revive the indigenous system of panchayats to which are known the fullest details of any case and which have therefore an unrivalled advantage of judging equitably. If this resuscitation should take place it would result in a three-fold advantage to the people. It would save the people their money which is now going into the hands of middlemen, professionals, and would put a check on the progressive demoralization of systematic misrepresentation of litigants in the courts of law. Further, it will help the people to develop in them greater and greater sense of veracity, justice, and mercy.

"But a more constructive programme of work can be carried out in the Agricultural Department. Everybody has said that the peasants contribute the highest revenue to the exchequer and yet their treatment by the Government has been so callous that the appointment of the Royal Commission may be said to be a too respectful commentary on the same. The Government ought to have been pulled up by the ears long ago. Some of the proposals made to it are free grant of land to those who have no lands, legislation rendering the immovable properties of the peasantry inalienable and assistance given to the formation of rural credit banks with share capital raised by the ryots themselves. If these were given effect to there will be created a community of very useful and self-reliant citizens instead of a mass of economic slaves that they are to-day.

"Passing on to education, Sir, it seems to me that the literary part of the system aims unconsciously at a sort of negative goodness and there it fails for obvious reasons. But that is a matter for experts. What I should like to see is, the introduction of longer hours of daily compulsory physical exercise to all children from the bottom to the highest class so that when they come out from their schools and colleges they will be the honoured guests of Nature's bounteous table instead of hanging about the offices scrambling and squabbling for crumbs on communal or other bases."

* Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, on an occasion like this, it is the usual practice to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the budget he has presented to us. If on this occasion I congratulate, it ought not to be taken as a mere formality, but a thing which I do feel. There are certain items in the budget for which he and the hon. the Finance Secretary deserve to be congratulated. This is the first occasion on which the provincial contribution is being altogether remitted. I trust during the next year the hon. the Finance Member now in charge of the department will also be able to get the remaining 56 or 59 lakhs released. Another item in the budget which requires congratulation is this: The hon. the Finance Member has made an honest statement that the Government had been negligent in the discharge of their duties as regards drainage and irrigation works. He said 'for past neglect we have to make up hereafter'. I am glad that the Government have recognized their past neglect. I hope that this recognition will urge them on to discharge their duties satisfactorily hereafter. These are the two main reasons for my congratulating the hon. the Finance Member.

"The third reason is that his statement is a very lucid one. He has told us how much from the year 1920 has been spent on the Transferred and the Reserved halves. He has shown us further what amount of increased

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expenditure there has been in the Transferred departments. I would congratulate him more next year if he shows in the next budget how much progress there has been in the educational field. Instead of saying that 10 more lakhs were spent on education, if the Government would tell us what increase there had been in the percentage of literacy, I would be more grateful. If the hon. Member would give us, with regard to agriculture also, statistics showing the increase in production on account of the efforts put forth by the Government, instead of saying that a few lakhs more than what was spent in 1920 were spent in 1927, we would be very grateful.

"Now, Mr. President, I have been in the Council for three years and this is my fourth year. I really doubt the utility of the general discussion we are having here. Every hon. Member in this House is allowed to say what he thinks of the activities of the various departments of the Government, but I am sorry to say that all this leaves no impression on the Government. We go on talking, suggesting various improvements, alterations and so on. But see what will happen next year. It will be just the same as this year. For instance, in the last years I have been urging and my hon. Friends also have been urging the reduction of court-fees. The hon. the Law Member was kind enough to tell us in 1925 I believe, that the matter was receiving his consideration. The matter is yet receiving his consideration. So, I very much doubt the utility of this discussion. I therefore wish that these three days wasted in this general discussion are added to the ten days allotted for voting on demands for grants so that we may more usefully spend the time.

"Now, there are some schemes for which the hon. Law-member may be congratulated. One is the Mettur scheme. So far as I am able to see, no valid criticism has been urged against the progress of that scheme. It has been said that much moneys are being spent on this scheme, and why not other district schemes which are in contemplation have some portion of the money. Certainly, I do not for a moment say that other districts do not deserve consideration, and that other schemes do not deserve investigation. Further I do not for a moment say that all the water in the Mettur scheme should go to Tanjore and Tanjore only. I am perfectly willing that my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, may have some water, and Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar also may have some water. But unfortunately the engineers have said that Coimbatore and Salem cannot have Mettur water on account of engineering difficulties. I do not say that the engineers are right or the estimates are correct. I do admit that engineers are liable to err. They may be authorized to examine the subject further to see if it is possible that other districts can have water. I do not want to stand in their way and I hope the hon. the Law Member also will not stand in their way. Simply because it is not possible to give water to some districts, I do not believe the hon. Member for Coimbatore and the hon. Member for North Arcot will say that Tanjore should not be helped. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'Daniel coming to judgment.') Well, the hon. Member says: 'Daniel coming to judgment'. Certainly, I would welcome that Daniel, if he comes to examine, and says water can be taken to Coimbatore and Salem.

"There is one other thing to which I wish to refer and it is this. My hon. Friend, Sir Patro, was saying the other day that the people of this Presidency have been overtaxed for sometime owing to the then financial stringency and that it is necessary that the surplus which we are having on account of the remission of the provincial contributions ought to be first

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utilized for the remission of taxes. I am glad that the ex-Minister changed his mind as soon as he left the Treasury Bench. He also said that the people of this province are being overtaxed and that it is necessary that their taxes should be reduced. I would suggest some means by which the taxes could be reduced. I take up the Registration department for the purpose. It should be noted that this department was in charge of the ex-Minister himself. Next comes the revenue derived from Court fees. It is absolutely necessary that the extra registration fees levied from the year 1922 should be taken away and the Court fees on judicial stamps should be reduced. These should be reduced to their old level.

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“There is one other thing to which I should like to refer. The surplus may first be utilized in the following manner: There is the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar urging the restoration of the pay of the village officers to the pre-amalgamation level. The hon. the Revenue Member was kind enough to tell us that the increase would come to Rs. 45 lakhs. I am afraid that it is rather an exaggerated estimate. The real meaning of the resolution is that the pay which was existing before the amalgamation took place should be restored and I think the increase may be 25 or 30 lakhs of rupees. The hon. Member, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, estimated that it would be only 12 lakhs.”

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I think the time of the general discussion of the budget is a very useful one. For we take stock at that time of what we have done and what we propose to do in the immediate future. Sometimes it is also useful to think of what we have done to help the poor taxpayer. We expect some amount of broad-mindedness to characterise the budget. As representatives of the people we expect to show them what useful things we have done them. I would say that it is absolutely necessary to remember at this moment and that we must be conscious of the fact that what we do is for the good of the State and not for the good of any individual or community. It is better for us to remember that what we do is dominated by one consideration, viz., that it is good to the people. It does not matter if the Hindu, Muhammadan or any other community is benefited by what we do. But what does matter is that it is to the benefit of the State. We must see whether any act that is done or any word that is spoken is done or spoken to benefit the people.

“What is the benefit of our general discussion of the budget? We may fix what our ideal is, and we may make an approximate approach to that ideal. What we expect from the organism of the Government is to have experts in every department of knowledge. We want them to be experts and to use their knowledge for the benefit of the State. If these considerations are borne in mind, then the distinction that is made between justicite swarajist and non-swarajist would disappear.

“Therefore I submit that in discussing the budget we have to see what steps have been taken to improve the condition of society, towards the betterment of educational institutions and towards the betterment and uplift of the level of a society as a whole. At the time of the general discussion of the budget we must consider what the State ought to be and we should aim at an ideal. We must regard the State to be a family bound together by ties of mutual service. We expect its members to serve together and to be bound together by ties of goodwill. We expect every community to help every other

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[Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar]

"It was in the year 1925 that the then Chief Minister, the Raja of Panagal, inaugurated the scheme of grants to local bodies for works of rural development. A sum of 6.25 lakhs was given for rural communications and a similar sum for rural water-supply. The grants were given rather late in the year 1925—I believe it was in September—and there was also a condition super-imposed that local bodies receiving the grants ought to find from some source or other a sum equivalent to the grant they received from the Government. Though working under these adverse conditions, I am glad to say that the local bodies did splendidly well in utilizing these amounts. To borrow again from the hon. the Finance Member a very good expression which he used in the course of his speech, the digestive apparatus of local bodies was found quite suitable for digesting this particular kind of food that they got from the Government. In fact the complaint of the Government seems to be that they swallowed and digested more than they were expected to do, for we find it stated in more than one place in the Budget Memorandum that the disbursements out of the grants in 1925-26 exceeded all their anticipations.

"In 1926-27 the grant made was much less than in the previous year and this year while we were all expecting a very liberal grant the provision made is grossly inadequate. The need for the improvement of rural communications is indeed very great throughout the province. Even in my district of Tinnevely, which cannot be said to be a backward one, there are areas in which the only convenient means of transport is the primitive pack-bull. There are yet other areas in which even walking from one village to another in the rainy season is a matter of great difficulty. Any system of administration in which such a state of things is allowed to continue must be ashamed of itself. I can assure the hon. Minister that if he makes the grants in time this year and without any exacting conditions super-imposed as before, local bodies can be trusted to spend not 5 lakhs but ten times that amount during the year. Construction of rural roads is not a matter of great difficulty. We do not want the sanction of the Superintending Engineer for the purpose—a sanction which takes months and years to get as we all know. We have only the overseer and the maistris on whose services we have to depend and they are amenable to our discipline but not the Superintending Engineer. Let the hon. Minister give the 50 lakhs and see whether our digestive apparatus is not strong enough to digest the whole of it. If we fail, of course it is open to him to take back all the money.

"Whatever amount the Government might give I would request them to give it without adding the condition that the local bodies must find an equivalent amount. I am sorry to have to say that most of our local bodies have already exhausted the three resources usually employed for finding money, viz., begging, borrowing and stealing. To demand of them an equivalent sum now would be to deny them the grant.

"Coming to water-supply the provision made is 2.5 lakhs. Dividing this sum among the 128 taluk boards of this Presidency and again sub-dividing it among the revenue taluks of each taluk board the net result will probably be enough not even to dig one well but only a fraction of it. It does not require any argument from me to convince anybody that to have a fraction of a well is no good to any one. The proverb is well known that the man who jumps over a fraction of a well is gone.

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say that reduction was not made on grounds of financial considerations and that it was not justifiable in the public interest. By public interests they mean financial considerations. Then we passed an almost unanimous resolution to constitute a committee to organize and better the condition of the non-gazetted officers. On financial considerations this resolution also was turned down.

“So far as our finances are concerned, this time there may be some glimmering of hope. In the budget I see more than anything the hand of the master juggler. The figures are being manipulated. A deficit budget carries with it the inevitable and the most distressing fact for, when a deficit budget is thrown at our face, we find it very difficult to drive home to the Government our claims for more grants under this or that head. The moment we stand up and place our needs they say, ‘our hands are tied; we are working a deficit budget; we cannot make bricks out of sand; how is it possible? Are you willing to submit yourselves to extra taxation?’ When the budget estimate for 1926-27 was presented on the 3rd March 1926, we anticipated a deficit of 76.48 lakhs of rupees. Later on, we were told that the deficit may come down to Rs. 34 lakhs. On the contrary, we find that instead of a deficit of Rs. 34 lakhs we find a surplus of over 32 lakhs of rupees. If it is not jugglery it is impossible to understand it in any other sense. It is true that there is a promised remission of provincial contributions to the extent of Rs. 165 lakhs. These two factors can, by no means, be regarded as heralding a new dawn in the political firmament of this Presidency unless and until the bureaucratic machinery or the bureaucrats change their heart, have a new angle of vision and unless they set apart a large amount of the surplus for the developing departments and to remove the discontent of the non-gazetted officers and the village officers and others who drag on a very miserable existence owing to smallness of pay. Now their lot remains to be the same. I find from the budget that land remissions came to about 18 lakhs of the total revenue. It comes to about two per cent. It is nothing but a flea-bite. Village communication, sanitation and rural relief have received but scant attention. Nothing has been done to ameliorate the condition of the masses. Taxation must be reduced and steps should be taken to reduce court fees, stamp duties and registration charges. The Local Self-Government Department needs thorough overhauling. It is up to the Ministry to come forward with a go-ahead and progressive policy on Excise, without any equivocation or mental reservation.

“The grant for Education is inadequate. Minor irrigation must receive greater attention and the Government must extend irrigation projects to tracts liable to frequent scarcity.”

12-45 p.m. The ZAMINDAR OF SEITHUR :--“Mr. President, Sir, I thank you heartily for having given me a chance to express my humble views in this Council on the budget presented to us.

“Let me also add a word of congratulation to the hon. the Finance Member for the hopeful budget he has presented and for his lucid exposition of it. We were afraid that the famine conditions due to the failure of rains would strain the resources of the Government and leave little scope for carrying out beneficent schemes. But the welcome announcement that the Provincial contribution has been remitted to the extent of about 165 lakhs

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would greatly help the schemes of development in the nation-building departments. It would also dispel the gloom that threatened to envelop the path of the new Ministry in the beginning of its administration.

"Sir, I desire to emphasise the great necessity for the improvement of irrigation facilities in the district of Madura which I have the honour to represent. If the storage capacity of Periyar lake can be increased and an increased regulated discharge from the lake for irrigation can be soon brought about, it would be a great blessing to the vast masses of the agricultural population.

"We hear a great deal about the efforts for the reclamation of the Kallars. But neither the Kallars nor the Maravars have any innate criminal tendency. If some few are black sheep and have taken to bad ways, it is not due to instinct but to economic causes. The vast mass of them are very poor. The Periyar scheme brought water to the fields and enabled cultivation on a remunerative basis, to the Melur taluk of Madura, as a result of which crime has ceased in the home of one section of Kallars. In reclaiming the said classes, I assure you, Sir, nothing will be more potent than more irrigation facilities, a carefully planned net work of co-operative societies on the credit and non-credit sides, and a generous advance of agricultural loans on long and easy terms and also the spread of education in villages, time table and syllabus being so framed as to suit the occupational conditions of these people.

"I am happy to know, Sir, that the construction of a new hospital in a better place in Madura which is long overdue is now in sight.

"Sir, I desire to refer to one more subject. That is to express a hope that the members of the ancient landed aristocracy of the country who have naturally large influence, should more largely come out and take part in popular movements. They should take to the democratic institutions by seeking the suffrages of the territorial electorates for election to the legislatures and local bodies and work for the common and mutual advantage of both the aristocracy and democracy. In this connexion, I take the opportunity to congratulate the Government for having nominated Mr. S. N. Rajkumar Dorairaja, of Pudukottai, to represent our community in the Tanjore district."

* Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is difficult, if not impossible, within the short time allotted to us to make our general observations on the various proposals contained in the budget that has been presented to this Council by the hon. the Finance Member. Even if it were possible it is very doubtful whether the observations we consider it our duty to make have any effect on the executive, entrusted with the administration of both the halves of the Government. Speaking on the budget in this Council last year, I catalogued the various acts of omission and commission on the part of those responsible for the administration of this province and I appealed to the Members to consider if the time had not come for them to take such action as would compel the Government to bend to the national will. Much water has flowed under the bridge since then. The general elections have come and gone and the people by a clear majority have given their verdict against diarchy. In any country where the executive is responsible to the Legislature, the verdict of the people would have been given due weight, and every possible step would have been taken to give effect to

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their wishes. But the bureaucracy in India safely entrenched as they are in power and position heed not the wishes of the people and they carry on the administration in the traditional way, unmindful of the needs and requirements of the people.

"Let me here quote a concrete instance of their ways which affects very largely the well-being of the majority of the people of this province. It is nearly eight years since the Joint Committee of both the houses of Parliament recommended the enactment of a land revenue law, and yet we are left in the same old position, the executive getting on as ever in their old way. The Bill that they introduced in this Council in 1924 was a most reactionary measure hopelessly at variance with the spirit and the letter of the recommendations of the Joint Committee, and the Legislature dealt with it in the only possible manner open to it. The other draft that has recently been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* is still more so. In addition to its retaining all the objectionable features of the old Bill which were responsible for its being thrown out by the Legislature, an additional taxation clause has been introduced under which manaikats in natham areas which were originally assessed at the dry rate would be given up in favour of a tax on the estimated annual rental value which is bound to be higher than the original dry assessment. I ask whether this is the way in which the interests of the poor agriculturists can be protected. What earthly use is there in appointing commissions and committees to find out ways and means of raising the position of the agriculturist, when the Government is determined to squeeze from the poor agriculturists the maximum amount of revenue so as to enable them to carry on the administration in a reckless manner? The majority of the people of this province are agriculturists, who are hardly hit by the vagaries of the executive, and I ask the House whether this alone is not a justification for the adoption of the only constitutional course open to us, namely, grievances before supplies. There are many other ways in which poor agriculturists are hardly hit. The rigid observance of the present reactionary Forest Regulations contributes not a little to their suffering. Add to this the failure of the monsoon in the fasli has added considerably to their difficulties. In spite of the resolution passed by this Council in January last to take some steps to minimize their difficulties and sufferings, the Government are adamant, and the provisions contained in the Board's Orders and the Famine Code are exploited to the fullest extent to the detriment of the interests of the poor ryots. These are some of the many hardships to which the ryots who are the paymasters of the bureaucracy in this province are subjected and it is for this Council to consider whether this alone is not sufficient to induce them to decide to reject the grant under the head Land Revenue as a protest against the most reactionary policy adopted by the Government."

* Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARA PANDIA NADAR :—"Mr President, Sir, let me congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the satisfactory budget which he has presented to us for the ensuing year. Let us also congratulate ourselves on the prospect of the utter remission of the Provincial contributions and on the new era of financial prosperity that is to dawn on us. The complete remission of the Provincial contributions will go a great way towards the ushering in of the much wished for reform of Provincial autonomy. Of course, when we do get full Provincial Autonomy, we ought to agitate for and secure a greater share of the elastic

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revenues than we have at present. It is a regrettable feature of our taxation that we have heads of revenue which are inelastic and which have been taxed to the maximum level.

“Let me now pass on to detail a few grievances which have come to my notice. First and foremost is the situation created in the non-Periyar and Periyar tracts of Madura district by the failure of rains, and hence the failure of crops. In the non-Periyar tracts there has been a complete failure of crops and in the Periyar tracts second crop has completely failed. I request the Government to instruct the district officers to handle the situation with great sympathy and to remit taxes wherever necessary and to inaugurate measures which will ameliorate the condition of the people and relieve their distress.

“Next, I pass on to the domain of my hon. Friend, Dr. Usman Sahib. We were anxiously looking forward to the visit of the hon. Member when we would have had an opportunity to place before him our grievances and sufferings and he would have had an opportunity to acquaint himself with the actual conditions. We regret that he was forced to abandon his proposed visit owing to causes beyond his control. Suffice it for me at present to bring to his notice two special grievances: (1) the raising of the grazing fees from 4 annas to 12 annas and (2) permission to be given for the disafforestation in certain parts in our district. In this connexion, it is my painful duty to invite his attention to the unsympathetic way in which the unsympathetic regulations are administered by the subordinate officials.

“Again, Sir, I regret to observe that the subordinate magistracy are lacking in independence. It is of the utmost importance to a country to possess a thoroughly independent and impartial magistracy. We, His Majesty's loyal subjects, look up to the magistracy for protecting our rights and liberties. Of course the salvation lies in the separation of the executive and the judicial functions. I request the hon. the Law Member to take note of this and to introduce this most urgent and beneficial reform.

“Next, let me pass on to the subject of the issue of gun licences. These licences, as a matter of course, should be issued to the people in the hilly tracts, but unhappily, this is not done. The fury of the wild beasts is not quite so furious as the inhumanity of the officials and the restrictions placed on the granting of licences. I plead for a greater and more vigilant and personal attention on the part of the higher district officials. Let them not be mere slaves of the vagaries of the subordinates.

“Coming to the Department of Agriculture in which I am interested, may I, Sir, suggest this? The scientific manures are at present sold by European firms and it is well known that they are sold at too high a rate. The result is that these manures are out of the reach of the poor ryots. Hence I suggest that the Government may be pleased to open Government manure depots where these scientific manures will be sold at a little above the cost price. I believe this is a good step towards the improvement of agriculture.

“More castration machines ought to be supplied to the taluk veterinary surgeons. The present supply is far too inadequate. Every taluk surgeon should at least have one machine.

“Coming to the Department of Local Self-Government and Education, let me say this: We request the hon. the Chief Minister to see that a good

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portion of the amount is got and spent over rural water-supply. It is one of the most urgent demands and the Government will be worth nothing if we do not succeed in procuring good water-supply for the ryots. I may also request the hon. Minister to see that aided managers of schools admit pupils of the depressed classes into their schools. I may also request the Government to take up the question of laying out the Athur Ghat road on the Lower Palni Hills at the earliest possible moment, as the road is of great importance. It is a matter for regret that it has been completely neglected. Is it because it is useful to Indian planters? I hope not.

"In conclusion, Sir, yesterday I was listening to the pathetic appeal made by hon. Friend Mr. Sahajanandam. As one very much interested in the welfare of the depressed classes, I can specially appreciate the significance of his appeal. Sir, the so-called higher castes, in spite of their professions in words, have nothing but contempt for the depressed classes. Their heart is obdurate and they are unrepenting. Laws and regulations are twisted and they find means to tyrannise over them. But, Sir, let them realize that the future of our country is inexplicably bound up with the progress of the depressed classes and that no real progress is possible without their progress. I believe all the so-called higher castes will realize the injustice of their acts and extend to them brotherly love and equality due to them as God's children. Let the country rise up as one man and let them be lifted up from the depths of degradation and misery in which they are at present."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I really do not think that there is anything in this budget which viewed from the point of view which I have been urging for the last three years to bring to the notice of this Government, viz., that of a villager can be congratulated upon. It is a well-known fact which cannot be ignored that the major portion of the revenues of this Presidency comes from the villagers. Land revenue, excise revenue, or a good portion of it, income-tax or the major portion of it and a lot of other income is entirely due to the villagers. When one looks at the budget and the way in which the Government have been trying for years past to collect revenue from the villagers and spend it for the amelioration of the people in the towns, the utterly neglected villager doubts if there is any salvation for him. It is a fact, Sir, which ought to be taken into account, that the villagers who are having some education, who come to the towns and stay there for some time, do not propose to go and settle down in the villages. The reason is that all the facilities that are being created for the amelioration and convenience of the people are being concentrated in towns to the utter neglect of the villagers. The example of the West must give us sufficient food to realize in time and before it is too late, how it is necessary that attempts should be made to see that the people in the villages do not migrate to the towns. In the West, Sir, we are aware that attempts are now being made to see that the people go and settle down in the villages. As a matter of fact, here there is no necessity to attempt such things and ask the people to go to the villages. It is enough if the Government makes up its mind to see that the people who are already in the villages do not migrate to the towns.

1 p.m. "And for that purpose what is really necessary is to see that some modern amenities, some modern conveniences are extended to the villages. And we ask this as a sheer justice. If we look at the figures, it will be clear

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that vast sums of money are being spent for the townsmen. I am not one of those who complain that conveniences are created in towns. But to create them to the utter neglect of the villagers and at their cost is an act of sheer injustice. What is the provision made this year in the budget for rural water-supply? It is two lakhs and odd. All this sum is provided for the water-supply of but a single town while the rural water-supply scheme extends to the whole presidency. The provision comes to practically nothing so far as the rural parts are concerned. Again, I find that there is very little that has been provided for medical relief in the rural areas. The scheme which has been adumbrated by the previous Chief Minister has been started, I believe, with very good intentions. I do not really believe that the scheme is working very well but the defects in the scheme do not justify the cutting down of the grants for the extension of medical relief to the rural areas. The real difficulty in that scheme seems to be the paltry sum that has been given to those doctors for settling down in villages and more than that, the unhappy interference by the taluk board presidents and the district board presidents has been a stumbling block in the way of these men settling down in the villages. I believe if only this control is removed and they are given a free hand with a decent subsidy, any number of people will be coming forward to settle in the villages and provide medical relief to the people. But how has this been done? The whole of the extra revenue that the Government might possibly find is spent more or less on buildings. It is my complaint along with that of others that a lot of money is spent on buildings. All this sum could well be utilized for the reconstruction of the villages. We are told, Sir, that we are attempting to work up a programme of prohibition in this country and that we must find some resources to substitute the loss. But when the Government find themselves in possession of resources, they say that all the amount is spent on buildings. Some of my hon. Friends in this Council seem to think that the little remission that we may get from the Government of India should be spent on nation building departments. If it is a question of spending this money on the nation-building departments at the expense of the experiments at prohibition, I really believe that our attempts for substituting the resources of the Government by the loss in the excise revenue are not serious. The first charge, I believe, on the amount at our disposal must be towards reducing the revenue on excise. I should at this stage observe that unless total prohibition is tried district by district or in a number of districts, mere palliatives by reducing the consumption of liquor or the number of hours are practically of no use. I have given my experience once before and I believe the hon. Minister for Excise will see to it that the best way of trying prohibition is to try district after district. I am prepared for my own part, Sir, as I have already said from my seat here last time, to offer my services if the hon. Minister is going to start the experiment in my own district. If the hon. Minister comes to the conclusion that it has been a failure in any one district, let him adopt other methods which may suggest themselves to him.

“I should like to pass on to the question of punitive police. Personally I do not think that the Government can do much by introducing punitive police in areas which are not amenable to peace.”

* The RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Mr. President, Sir, as the hon. the Finance Member has put it ‘the long fight is over’. It has been a fight

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for freedom from being compelled to pay unconscionable contribution to the Central Government. So far as our Province is concerned it has been a protracted fight. It is as old as the award of 1920. My friend, the hon. Mr. Moir, was one of the earliest to join the crusade against iniquitous impost. And as most of the hon. Members know he is unsparing in fighting as he is sparing in stewarding our finances. It is no wonder he comes out the better in the fight. I take this opportunity to offer to him my most cordial congratulations. I congratulate on the prospect of the millstone tied to their necks being removed. The release from the obligations of paying the provincial contributions is financially a source of great relief to our vince. As the hon. Members are aware, every department has been for a proseries of years experiencing a great financial strain, a strain on account of which many an important administrative scheme could not be carried out. This release will result in a saving of Rs. 165 lakhs. The saving will be a recurring one.

“The budget under discussion is presented as a deficit budget, with a deficit of 69 lakhs, though it has an opening balance of Rs. 134 lakhs. It seems anomalous. If provision for such schemes as do not require recurring expenditure were made from the opening balance we would not only have no deficit but a surplus budget. I think the surplus might be as much as 65 lakhs of rupees. Besides this, we have the prospect of getting Rs. 165 lakhs by way of remission or contribution.

“The question therefore for us to consider is how best we can utilize the large surplus amounting to 2.30 lakhs. There have been various suggestions from various quarters of this House. But before I deal with the question, I should like to say a few words on the budget as it is presented to us. The budget, is, as I have stated, not a deficit budget but a surplus budget though it may be technically speaking a deficit budget. That being the case, I am rather disappointed to see meagreness of provision for some of the most cherished schemes. I am depressed to find that there is only a provision of Rs. 1,15,000 for the Andhra University. That University has begun its work and is badly in need of financial help. Secondly there has been no provision practically none, to finance the scheme of extension of medical relief in rural areas. There is only a small provision of 5 lakhs for village communications. Provisions made for villages, water-supply schemes, is only Rs. 2,50,000. I hope, Sir, that the Ministers will see that larger amounts are allotted for these important schemes.

“Now I return to the question of utilization of the surplus available to us. Sir, as I have already stated there have been various suggestions for the utilization of our surplus. Some hon. Members think that the amount at our disposal should be utilized for the reconstruction of rural areas. Some are of opinion that they may be utilized for effecting a reduction in certain items of taxation while others opine that they may be utilized for trying experiments of reform in the excise policy of the Government. I have no doubt that every one of these suggestions is worthy of consideration. So far as the last suggestion is concerned, I think I had better leave it alone for two reasons. First, because I am not supposed to know with any degree of certainty what the result of the reform advocated will be. Secondly, my hon. Friends who occupy the Ministerial bench come from or are supported by a party which has been in time and out of time advocating the reform. I think therefore that they would be in a better position to deal with that

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suggestion. There are two other suggestions which require consideration, that of rural reconstruction and of reducing certain items of taxation. As between these two suggestions, I have no hesitation to give my preference to the first. I say the first is to be preferred for the simple reason that it will, if adopted, benefit a much larger section of people. The adoption of the second suggestion will benefit only the litigant population. I am honestly of opinion that a large portion of our surplus, if not the whole of it, should be devoted to financing schemes of village reconstruction. I would suggest as much as fifty lakhs should be allotted for village reconstruction, medical relief, sanitation and the upliftment of depressed classes. I would suggest that each item in the final programme of village reconstruction, should get an early allotment of funds and if the allotment in a particular year is not utilized during that year it must lapse to the village reconstruction fund and not to the general revenue, so that it might be utilized later on for the same purpose for which it was originally allotted. If we really want to improve the condition of life in rural areas, we must have village reconstruction fund constituted to go with an unbroken programme of rural reconstruction. Hitherto we have been neglecting the interests of rural population.

"In fact, Sir, the people who contribute most towards our general finances get very little of return. Most of our revenues collected from rural areas are being utilized for expenditure on urban areas. I would ask hon. Members to lay their hands in their hearts and say if we have been discharging our duty to the rural population. (A voice: 'A belated discovery') Sir, I discovered it as early as 1922 when I introduced the new scheme of rural reconstruction. 1-15 p.m.

"No doubt, during the first one or two years after the introduction of the reforms we have not been able to do much in that direction, because the financial strain was great. As soon as the first instalment of remission of provincial contribution was given effect to, we introduced schemes of rural reconstruction. As a result of the inauguration of the scheme a number of dispensaries has been sanctioned out of which 250 have already been opened, for the benefit of rural population. Besides we have the taluk health staff brought into existence to look after rural sanitation and the works of village roads and village water-supply carried out. This was all done at a time of great financial strain. Now that the strain is removed, I am sure that the Ministry would be in a position to pay attention to the question of improving the condition of life in rural areas and earn the gratitude of the millions of people."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"For the information of the House I may say that clapping of hands is not permissible. Cheering by words is permissible, not clapping of hands."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not know if it was by design or by accident that the chambers where the Madras Legislative Council meets were built in the Fort St. George, but undoubtedly it serves a very good purpose. Morning after morning, as we walk or drive up to these chambers, we see the machine guns and field guns, and the European soldiers. These machine guns and the military troops stationed here forcibly remind us that in spite of these paraphernalia of our reformed legislatures, the Ministers, this diarchy, in spite of all our budget discussions and our

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veting on the budget, to-day as in the days of John Company, British rule in this country is a military tyranny which is tolerated, only because the people cannot help it, and that all these paraphernalia have not changed the real nature of the steel frame which sits tight over the people of this country. But it may be asked, why is it then that we are here doing this Sisiphan task knowing all the time that we shall end where we began? My answer to this question is this, Mr. President. (Mr. V. P. Rao : 'Hear, hear'.) I am glad that a Secretary to the Madras Government is so much impressed with his importance as to ask me why I am here. I am here because I want to say that every time we are insulted, every time we are treated with contempt, by these insults and by this treatment, you are driving a fresh nail into the coffin of the British Government in this country. We are here because we know that the ultimate sanction for the enforcement of self-government in this country is going to come from an angry and self-assertive people who will demand and get what they think is their due, British Government or no British Government. It is because we believe that by our work here we can create an atmosphere of resistance throughout the country which will make the Britishers feel its pressure, we are here. We are hopeful that soon the future Chen of India will be able to tell the future Sir Austen Chamberlain of Great Britain : 'We do not mind your guns ; the country will fight you with its economic weapon and gain its cause.' That is my answer, Sir, to my hon. Friend, the Development Secretary, who is so self-complacent as to ask me why I am here.

"I have just a word to say as to the refusal of our party, the Congress party, to accept Ministerial office under diarchy. His Excellency Lord Goschen did us the honour of inviting the Congress party to accept office. It was your privilege, Sir, as the then Leader of the party, to tell the Governor in pursuance of the Congress mandate that we could not accept Ministerial offices under diarchy. We feel that under diarchy there is no power, initiative or responsibility for Ministers, however well intentioned they may be. I say as to the new occupants of these offices to-day they are all honourable men, and I know they will find out sooner or later, I hope sooner than later, that they are there merely to carry out the wishes of unseen powers and the most important of them all is the Finance Member, and that whatever schemes they want to inaugurate they must get his sanction and they must be constantly able to realize that they have no independence, power, or initiative. The two Indian Members of the Executive Council are no better than they, though they may be excellent gentlemen by themselves. I may say that all these five Indian Members on the Treasury Bench have not got as much power as the two gentlemen, the other Members of the Reserved half. All these Indian Members may keep the official secrets, secrets of matters happening in the privacy of their Cabinet chambers, but they must admit at least to themselves that these two gentlemen are far more powerful than all these five Indian Members put together. (Hear, hear.)

"Sir, coming to the budget, we find that more than 12 crores of our revenue is derived from taxing the necessities or the vices of our people. For land revenue or excise, you take money from the poorest of the people and you take money from the drink habits of the people. Again, I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member and the Madras Government, on having successfully evaded the almost mandatory exhortation of the Joint

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Parliamentary Committee that very soon after the Reformed Legislatures began to function, the land revenue settlement rules must be given statutory form and that this Council must be given powers of control over the rates of assessment. So far, they are successfully evading this injunction, and if I may be allowed to offer a piece of advice to the hon. the Revenue Member, I would ask him to spare himself and this Council the trouble of introducing the new Bill—I mean the Land Revenue Bill which was published—and I would say that it would be given short shrift. Instead of wasting time and money for printing and circulating the Bill and placing it on the agenda of this House, I do hope, Sir, that he, as a wise man, will profit by this advice and will not introduce the Bill before this House.

“Then Sir, with regard to the question of how to make use of the surplus which has now become available to us, I have only one word to say. The Ex-Chief Minister has such queer ideas about prohibition that when it comes to the question of taking it up seriously, he says he knows nothing about it. I congratulate him upon that barrenness of policy after having held office for six years. But we have now learnt that that party is also enthusiastic about prohibition, if their new spokesman from Tinnevely is to be believed, and they admit that drink is an unmitigated evil and that prohibition ought to be introduced at once. Wisdom comes late to her children, but I trust in this case it has come really and sincerely, and will last whatever the temporary tenements of the members of that party may be, this side or that side. Sir, the Ministerial party has definitely laid down that prohibition is their goal, and that it is to be reached by definite and successive stages. I feel it my duty to tell the hon. Member for Excise that on this side of the House there is very strong, very sincere and very earnest feeling that this drink revenue ought to go and that prohibition ought to be introduced as early as practicable, and if he feels he is there to carry out the wishes of the House, he must do something radical in order to make that programme practicable and immediately effective, at least partially.

“My hon. Friend the Law Member has nearly finished his term of office. The tragedy of his official life may not be known to him yet. But when he lays down his office, he will find that he has been for a series of years on attempts at great ends, but in the result, facing failure after failure. What has become of the separation of the judicial and executive functions? As a lawyer, he sees the benefits of it; as a Member of this Council he agrees with it; but he says that the Government of India are against it. Then, with regard to the increased court-fees and stamps, he is now taxing justice, and I hope that at least a portion of the surplus will be utilized to reduce this increased taxation. Then, Sir, with regard to the Indianization of the Police, may I draw attention to one fact? He may be the Law Member. An Indian may be the Governor of a province, but in the special department of the Criminal Investigation department no Indian however eminent, can sit, but only Anglo-Indians, preferably. I take it that neither Europeans nor Indians are to be appointed there. And yet he is an Indian occupying the position of an Executive Councillor in charge of that department; but in his own department he dare not appoint an Indian. That is why I said he has no more power than I have. (Laughter.) With regard to the Mettur project, Mr. President, I am not one of those who are against the project. I see great possibilities from it. But, Sir, I understand that a deliberate attempt is being made there to exclude all

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Indian genius, to deliberately encourage foreign imports and to put down indigenous supplies of materials. I give this information for what is it worth, but it is up to the hon. the Law Member to examine the matter thoroughly and see that no room is given for this complaint.

"Now, Sir, the administration of forests by my hon. Friend the Home Member is a huge joke. (Laughter.) We get 50 lakhs and spend 49 lakhs for it. I do not know why it ought not to be made a paying department. My hon. Friend collapsed me yesterday, when I asked him how he justified the Mappilla Colonization scheme, by blandly asking for notice. May I suggest to him that, being an Indian Member, he could certainly say whether he would put an end to the scheme which has been condemned not only once, but thrice on the floor of this House? What else are the Indian Members there for? Are they there to dot the i's and cross the t's of the European colleagues or servants? If that is so, let us at least save money and have only the two European Executive Councillors.

"Then, with regard to expenditure, we spend nearly half of the revenue on the Reserved departments and on our contribution to the Central Government which is now remitted. Nearly half, that is, seven crores and more, is spent on the Reserved half. So far as the remission of the provincial contributions is concerned, I am glad the representative of the Government of Madras in the Legislative Assembly, my esteemed friend, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, seems to have clearer conceptions of the rights of the province as against the Government of India than my hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, who, working up his fevered imagination, said that because of the remission of the iniquitous contribution which has been wiped out we have attained provincial autonomy. The Government of India, had no right to accumulate surpluses by taxing provinces; but it seemed to Sir Patro that the days of financial and provincial autonomy had dawned. I do hope that the House will not take that view which my hon. Friend took, but only look upon it as an act of tardy justice. I am glad that my friend Sir Patro has discovered after he laid down his office that part at least of the surplus should be utilized for the relief of taxation. I have a faint recollection that registration was under his charge, and I have also a faint recollection that registration charges were increased, and I have another faint recollection that when he was Minister a large portion of the provincial contribution was remitted. Why was not that amount allotted then for the reduction of registration charges?"

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"There was no surplus then."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTHI :—"The hon. Member then pleaded want of funds. But now to declare that there was no surplus and therefore he could not reduce the charges seems to be a lame excuse. For any Finance Member will be too much of a financial juggler to show any surplus. Anyhow, I am glad that he now at least after he has laid down the reins of office realizes how this amount should be applied. I do commend to the hon. the Finance Member and the Government that at least 50 lakhs should be set apart for the remission of increased stamp fees, court-fees, and registration charges.

"Then, the Justice party also, Mr. President, through my esteemed friend, the hon. Member for Malabar, has made another pertinent discovery that the Irrigation Bill should have been passed into law in the last Council, and should never have been allowed to be adjourned."

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Mr. President. I never said that. What I said was that it was risky to go on with a huge scheme without an irrigation law."

Mr S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not believe in saying that 1 and 1 is 2, that 1 and 1 is 2, and that therefore 2 and 2 is 4, when it can be said that 2 and 2 is 4. I believe in saying that 2 and 2 is 4. I, therefore, say that the hon. Member did say that the Irrigation Bill should have been passed into law and should not have been postponed. I may remind him, if his memory is short, that a member of the Justice party moved and another seconded that the Irrigation Bill be adjourned *sine die*—and it was adjourned, in spite of the strenuous opposition of the Congress party. Although I am not a very old member, I have not seen a more despicable chapter in the history of the Government of Madras, than when the Reserved Half and the Transferred Half entered into a compact with each other, when the Transferred Half wanted the votes of the Reserved Half for the Religious Endowments Bill and the Reserved Half wanted the votes of the Transferred Half to agree to the postponement of the Irrigation Bill *sine die*. It was a policy of 'you scratch my back and I will scratch yours.' And taking advantage of the temporary absence of the hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, the members of the Justice party hurled choice epithets at him and it was thought not necessary by his colleagues of the Reserved Half even though he happened to be his colleague to defend him, though they claim to be true sportsmen and Englishmen. His colleagues remained quiet. And yet my hon. Friend says that the Bill should have been passed into law."

1-30
p.m.

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" What were you doing ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" We voted against the adjournment and we were in a minority. That is why the people have sent us here and you are there to-day." (Laughter and cheers.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Clapping of hands is not permitted."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, then the hon. the Finance Member in his budget memorandum has tried to make a laboured explanation that the expenditure on Transferred Half has been increased very much more than the expenditure on the Reserved Half since the inception of the reforms. I agree that the figures are right, so far as they go. There are three kinds of lies—black lies, white lies and statistical lies. To-day, as in the beginning of the reforms, the proportion of expenditure between Reserved and Transferred Halves is very nearly the same. We are still spending two-thirds on the Reserved departments and one-third on the Transferred."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is reaching the time limit."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Yes, Sir, I am closing. Only two minutes more."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" One minute."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" All right, Sir. So far as the University is concerned, I do want the hon. the Education Minister to look at the Andhra University with sympathy. It is an accomplished fact and it should not be starved for want of funds."

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"My friend, the hon. the Minister for Development, has given the promise to bring an amendment to the Religious Endowments Bill. I hope he will sit at it in earnest and see that the Board is not allowed to have its own way.

"One last word and I have finished. I know that before the end of this term of this House is reached, the Royal Commission will be in our midst, and I know they will be anxious to know how we have worked the reforms. As one who claims to know English psychology, I claim that we, Congressmen, have got a clear conscience to go before the Commission and say, 'Well, we on our side have been always and are to-day prepared for honourable co-operation, co-operation on honourable terms. But the people on your side, the bureaucracy, never wanted our co-operation but slavish submission to them. That is why we refused to co-operate. Let them give us the right to govern ourselves in all its varied aspects and they will find that Congressmen will play the game. But Congressmen will always refuse to be in office as chobdars and daffadars of the bureaucracy.'"

* Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDIYAR :—"Permit me, Sir, to congratulate the members of the present ministry. We have been hearing these two days praises sung in their honour and congratulations offered to the Finance Member. With your permission I offer congratulations to the members of the ministry not because they have achieved any great things,—It is true their term has been very short and it is unfair to expect any achievements by them within such a short period—I choose to congratulate them because they have got very bright prospects before them. Even in the first year of their life their prospects are bright. Unlike the past ministry which had been witnessing years and years of deficit budgets, this ministry has to face the surplus budget even during the first year of its tenure. But it remains to be seen what they will do to avail themselves of this opportunity. The House is aware, Sir, that the next year as also the succeeding years promise to be fair years in that the impost is likely, may I say is sure, to be done away with. Therefore the question remains how best to distribute the surplus which is now available in the hands of the provincial exchequer. My hon. Friends from Tinnevely and Chittoor have made out a strong case and other hon. Members of the House like the Leader of my party the Raja of Panagal has made out a similar case for the necessity of rural reconstruction. The idea of constituting a fund for purposes of village reconstruction is an excellent one. We have seen for some years past that allotments were allowed to lapse. The Finance Member and, I suppose, the Minister in charge of rural sanitation have accused the local boards of not spending the allotments which have been given to them. I may assure them, Sir, that if only allotments had been made in proper time and proper season these local boards would not have found any difficulty in spending. Recently presidents of some district boards have received a memorandum from the Secretariat. I take it that it has been done at the instance of the hon. Minister in charge asking us to let them know what our programme will be in connexion with the rural water-supply. We were surprised to get this memorandum. The country is aware that any amount of money if only it is available can be spent in this connexion. We were not in a position to reply to the memorandum. Before this we received another communication to give them an idea of their programme for the next three years and that is a sounder one. I suppose there is

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this missing. When we are not given an idea of the fund that will be placed at our disposal it is not possible to exactly send them an idea as to the amount which we may be able to spend. If only they give us an idea of the actual amount that may be available for the next few years surely there may be no difficulty in preparing a programme seeing that the expenditure is incurred. I therefore request the hon. Minister in charge of Public Health to give us an idea as to what amount will be available for the next three years so that we may give him an idea as to our future programme. Sir, I have again, even at the risk of tiring the patience of this House to repeat some of the requests which were made by some of the Members of this House. The rural medical relief which has been inaugurated by the hon. the Raja of Panagal is an excellent one and in answer to a question which has been recently put on the floor of this House—I believe it was yesterday or day before yesterday—it was maintained that there had been no complaints till now on the working of these rural dispensaries and I do not see why the hon. Minister in charge has not been able to impress upon the hon. the Finance Member the necessity for the further extension of this scheme. I may assure him having some knowledge of the working of these institutions that this is a splendid idea and it deserves encouragement. The only thing about this system is inadequacy as has been pointed out by some other hon. Members, the inadequacy of the subsidies which are now offered to the practitioners who have to set up their families in the far off places where these institutions are started. The further question in the allotment of surplus should be the reduction of taxes, viz., registration fees, court fees, stamp fees and the like which have been recently enhanced. Before I close, Sir, I have to offer one or two remarks about the agricultural indebtedness of the country. With the heavy taxation of land revenue and with the increased powers of local boards to levy the various sorts of cesses like the education cess, the local board cess and other cesses under different sections of the Local Boards Act and with other numerous cesses which the panchayats may levy and with increased cost involved in high living which has permeated even the rural parts, the lot of the agriculturist is pitiable. It remains to be seen what the Agricultural Commission is going to do in the near future regarding the rural agricultural population of the country. But there is no use in waiting till then. I would request the Ministers to prepare the ground for putting into execution all the schemes which may be formulated by them. I would suggest, for instance, the extension one question which seriously affects the agriculturist, viz., the export of bone and manure which must be strictly prohibited. The hon. Minister can at once rise up and say that this is not our matter and that it concerns the Imperial Government. I know this a matter concerning the Imperial Government but I wish to impress upon the hon. Minister the necessity of bringing home to the Imperial Government the necessity of doing away with the export of bones and manures like oil-cakes. When these are exported in large quantities the agriculturists find themselves handicapped for proper manures. The export of groundnut may be economically sound but the export of oil-cakes manufactured in this country must be strictly prohibited. Let them by all means take the groundnuts by paying a decent price for the commodity but let not the cakes manufactured in this country be exported to the prejudice of the agriculturists. While on this topic I am reminded of the necessity of the improvement of the cattle on which the agriculturists depend. The condition of the cattle

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in this Presidency is getting worse day by day. It is a good thing that the Government have done away with the touring veterinary establishments. After all they are seriously thinking of starting more dispensaries. We realize the necessity of human medical relief. It is with equal force necessary to provide cattle medical relief. I would therefore press the necessity for at least one dispensary for each taluk in this province.

1-45
p.m.

"I also suggest the need for maintenance of breeding bulls at proper centres and providing facilities for improving the cattle. The present condition of cattle in this province is really pitiable and does tend to degeneration. Those of us who own cows and cattle do feel that we are not able to get good breeding bulls and the cattle are allowed to deteriorate very badly.

"The other subject to which I will invite the attention of the hon. the Minister in charge of Medical is the inadequate provision made in the budget for the taluk headquarter hospitals. We were told—of course unofficially—that there was a proposal pending with the Secretariat that all the taluk headquarter hospitals should be taken over by the Government. The present system is that all the officers are manned from the provincial revenues, and the charges for the compounder, the midwife and some other menials and also the medicine charges are met from the local board funds. I would urge as a measure of relief to the local boards and also as a measure of betterment of taluk headquarter hospitals that these institutions should be taken away from the control of the local boards, not because the local boards are reluctant to continue to manage them, but because this charge will afford some financial relief to the local boards. I believe that this scheme, if adopted, would mean that a few lakhs would be available to the local boards for other purposes, and I hope that the hon. the Minister in charge of Medical will see his way to getting this done at least next year.

"I will then refer only to one other matter, namely, light railways. We have been told that light railways was a provincial subject, and I remember—if I am not seriously mistaken—a communique was received some time ago asking us to send proposals for the construction of light railways from the accumulations of railway cess. The South Arcot District Board sent up proposals for the construction of light railways, and the matter has been pending for the last nearly two years. It is high time that the present Minister takes up the question, instead of leaving the matter to be handled by the South Indian Railway or some other body, and himself directly deal with it."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Mr. President, Sir, it is my privilege to address the House last on this side of the House. You are aware, Sir, that I belong to the largest elected group in this Council. Nowhere in India can we find a parallel to this largest elected group being in the Opposition. Sir, the most unreasonable attitude of the Government has made it impossible for the elected representatives of the people to co-operate with them in running the Government. It is the die-hardism of a reactionary Government that can possibly exult in the satisfaction of having formed a Ministry outside the majority group. However, die-hardism in this Presidency has not gone to emphasize itself further by forming the Ministry out of a group against which the country has unmistakably expressed itself again. I have no doubt, Sir, that His Excellency the Governor has acted under the instructions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in forming a Ministry of the sort he has done. But, so far as we are concerned,

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it makes absolutely no difference. We cannot accept Ministry under this Government excepting on honourable terms that may be agreed upon by mutual understanding. We do not believe that there is any responsibility now vested in the Ministry. If anybody should think that there is any responsibility, he will ere long disillusion himself of that impression. Sir, thanks to our countrymen who have returned us in these numbers; they have made it possible for us to drive another nail in the coffin of diarchy in this Presidency by compelling the Government to form a Ministry outside the majority group.

"Coming to the topic of the presentation of the budget, I do not believe there is anything to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member of this Presidency on this budget. No doubt, the Finance Member's speech has been helpful to a certain extent to understand the otherwise ununderstandable figures of the budget. But so long as we have no control over the Finance Department, it matters very little whether a particular budget is a surplus budget or a deficit budget. For, as has been observed, a prospective deficit budget could be transformed into a surplus budget after the lapse of three or four months either due to unexpected increase in revenue, or due to mistakes of the clerical staff. We have had an instance of a certain item instead of being credited to the Provincial Government was credited to the Central Government, which mistake was subsequently detected. Nobody can say with any positive certainty that the present budget does not contain mistakes of that nature. But what we are concerned with is from what sources of revenue this Government is carried on. There are two important sources of revenue, namely, land revenue and excise revenue. Both of these have got their own sorry tales to tell. The incidence of land revenue and the severity of it has been felt by the people of this Presidency and has been a source of perennial complaint and strong protest. Promises and assurances have been given by previous Governments of introducing fixity of land assessment. But all those promises have been sought to be explained away by one interpretation or another. If you look into the figures, you will find that the increase in land revenue when you compare the year 1925-26 with the year 1920-21 is Rs. 83.17 lakhs. The total increase of land revenue exacted between the years 1920-21 and 1925-26 is about Rs. 291.28 lakhs. Thus the agriculturist has been paying every year an increased assessment at the rate of Rs. 40 lakhs. After heartless exaction of this nature coupled with the remarkably low outturn of our crops, it is impossible to conceive that the agricultural population can sustain this kind of extortion for long. Sir, the rigidity of the land revenue policy and the elasticity of this assessment has driven many a ryot to the clutches of the money-lender. He is hopelessly indebted now. He has neither enough to eat, nor to clothe himself. The pitious appeals that were made and the incessant demands for some fixity of revenue assessment have all been dismissed with a carelessness and disregard that is peculiar to a foreign Government. The Madras Government has done enough to warrant suspicion against its bona fides. Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member just on the eve of the budget has been good enough to publish what is called a Land Revenue Bill. (Laughter) I hope, Sir, he will take the lesson from what the Legislative Council has already done, and withdraw the Land Revenue Bill which he has published. If not, I may assure him that it will soon share the same fate which the previous Bill deservedly got.

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"Sir, referring to the seasonal conditions, the hon. the Finance Member has said.

'It is a matter of great regret that an unfavourable season should have reduced our resources, temporarily affected the spending power of considerable sections of the community, and diminished employment. But I should deprecate an undue exaggeration or pessimism which is likely to have unfavourable psychological reactions, to encourage the withholding of supplies from markets and to justify and thereby to intensify on the part of dealers in grains and other essentials a natural tendency to timidity and caution which is apt to square with their conception of their own interests. After all, we are not inexperienced in unfavourable seasons or lacking in the machinery to deal with them.'

"The hon. the Finance Member's regret at the present seasonal conditions is not because the ryot is in great distress but because his sources of revenue will be affected. He says that the spending power of the community will be affected. Spending powers of which community? Is it the power of the contributors to drink? Is it the spending power of that community which is affected, for which the hon. the Finance Member expresses a regret? He further says that this is not peculiar for we have been accustomed to great famines and to a long series of famines; 'therefore don't lose heart; if you have famine in a particular year, it is not an unusual condition.' . . ."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR:—"On a point of order, Sir. It is not what I have said. The hon. Member should quote me correctly."

* MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I refer to his statement, 'After all, we are not inexperienced in unfavourable seasons or lacking in the machinery to deal with them' and I am making a comment upon that. When he says that we are accustomed to famines, I would only draw the inference that his regret is not because the people suffer but because the spending power of the community is affected. Knowing as he does that this country is prone to continuous famines, what is it that the Government have done to avoid those recurring famines except merely regretting or providing employment to people who are turned out of agriculture by starting some works? Is it to take advantage of famine conditions that you have got to start works? It is not however suggested that we need reduce the programme which provides employment in the country. It is certainly in consonance with the policy of the present Government to provide employment for the famine, affected people and to construct jails for people who are convicted, and to open dispensaries for people who are affected with disease. Instead of taking measures to prevent them, they say we are providing ameliorative things of that kind. You increase crime by causing poverty to the people and then increase the accommodation in jails. What does the increased accommodation in jails indicate? It indicates that the people are too poor to earn an honest living and that they are driven to commit crimes and enter jails.

2 p.m.

"Sir, some famines are due to the unfavourable seasonal conditions and more are due to the economic poverty of the population brought about by the manipulation of the currency policy and callous neglect of irrigational facilities. The hon. the Finance Member said that 'there is no reason to suppose that there will be any insufficiency of food supplies'. I do not think we have had famines of a nature in which food supplies fell short of the demand of the country. The reason why famines were occurring from year to year is that we have not the wherewithal to buy our own food supply. What is the use of placing a mint of gold before use and depriving

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the greatest boons that can be conferred, and I would even welcome a programme whereby these services were rendered at prices considerably below cost.

"Again, the provision for the survey of Cottage Industries is one which is to be heartily welcomed. The possibilities deserve close examination and if it is found that the lot of the agriculturist can be improved through granting him some facilities and technical help a great work will be launched.

"I turn to the Medical grant because the hon. Member who has just spoken referred adversely to the grant proposed for the Madras General Hospital. I think the hon. Member should remember that this is the Mother Hospital and that unless it can point the way in up-to-date equipment and accommodation and training there can be no hope of the Mufassal Hospitals being anything but behind the times. Madras is known in Madras and in all India to be the most enlightened Presidency and it is a blot on our record that our General Hospital should not be even comparable to those existing in Bombay and Calcutta. Let it not be said that we are ceasing to lead India in such matters.

"The transfer of the Health Council to Government control seems to be a move very much in the right direction, but I have been disappointed not to see any specific mention of provision for work in connexion with what has been called Social Hygiene. It will be remembered that last year a delegation from the Social Hygiene Council visited us and showed us the possibilities of taking active steps against that terrible scourge venereal disease which possesses such a hold on the country, and the name of which so many people seem even afraid to mention.

"We are told, and I think any medical practitioner will confirm it, that the vitality of the country is 50 per cent below par as a result of Malaria, Hookworm, incorrect feeding and venereal disease. The three first matters are receiving attention but not yet the last which is possibly the most important of all. As an employer of labour, I know how the vitality of the labourer is reduced to a mere fraction of its normal by bad health and I hold that, until India has become physically much fitter by the provision of facilities to raise the standard of health, she cannot possibly hope to stand up as a nation in the present day competition of the world.

"I regard provision for health as provision for the political advancement of the country and hope to see a generous allotment in due course for the work referred to.

"The budget, on the whole, presents a most satisfactory appearance. It reveals a sound financial position coupled with a desire to make provision for all the most pressing needs of the Presidency."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"It is fortunate that we have 1,654·8 lakhs to spend this year and this with the addition of 165 lakhs remission likely to be made by the Central Government ought to be able to enable us to do more for the people that supply the revenues for this Presidency. A great portion of the revenue of this Presidency is obtained from land revenue. It is necessary, I believe, Sir, that at least something ought to be done to enable the people that supply this large proportion of land revenue and a large proportion of the revenue of the Presidency by way of keeping up this supply

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of getting it. But if however that money is got, it is incumbent upon the Government to first of all set it off against the increased taxes which they had imposed during 1921-22."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has already exceeded the time limit. He is requested to close his speech soon."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"And an earnest and honest attempt should be made to tackle with the question of prohibition."

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-5 p.m.

After Lunch (2-45 p.m.).

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"To-day the Council will continue to sit till half past five and I do not propose to fix any time limit on the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench. The debate must be terminated by half past five."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, I do not propose taking up very much of the time of this House except to reply as briefly as possible to the remarks made by hon. Members in the speeches that they have made so far. Taking up the departments in my charge, I shall first refer to the Department of Public Health. It includes water-supply and drainage and rural sanitation. For water-supply and drainage, hon. Members may have seen, we have made a provision in the coming year, of 22.16 lakhs. The question of water-supply may be divided into two parts :—The water-supply of cities, i.e., of larger municipalities and pilgrim centres and the water-supply of unions and rural water-supply which means water-supply of villages. For this item there had been no budget provision from the years 1921 to 1925 for the reason that the Financial Relations Committee considered this to be a duty that devolved on local boards and municipalities. But from the year 1925 onwards budget provision has been made and in the current year we have made a provision of 2.5 lakhs. 'This inadequate provision', in the words of several hon. Members, has to be explained. I may say at once that although the budget provision is only 2.5 lakhs it does not follow that we are not going to increase it later on. One reason why we had to provide such a low sum was that at that time we had not sufficient information as to what exactly the demands under this item were going to be. To enable us in the future to get more correct information, and put us in a position to budget correctly we have recently called upon the district boards and taluk boards to draw up a programme of works so as to indicate their requirements and at the same time to send us a programme of works they consider as urgent and should be carried out during the next three years. I do expect that when we have heard from these bodies and are then in a position to know exactly what the urgent demands will be we shall be in a position even during the coming year to increase our budget provision. I have no doubt that in this matter there is room for considerable improvement. Several hon. Members have referred to this question and I entirely agree with them that the matter of village improvements is one of paramount importance. And I do not see why in the coming years for village water-supply and village sanitation and so forth we should not budget for a sum of 20 lakhs instead of 2.5 lakhs."

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Taking into consideration the fact that we have received recently a remission of the Provincial contributions, we have every hope that with sufficient finances we shall be in a position to allot more money for rural schemes.

"Hon. Members have referred to the fact that the grants made in previous years have sometimes lapsed and the Raja of Panagal suggested that allotments might go into what he called the Village Reconstruction fund so that even if the district boards are not in a position to spend in any particular year the amounts allotted to them, the balance might not lapse to Government but may continue to remain in the fund to be utilized in the coming year. That is a financial matter and I shall have it looked into with my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member.

"Concerning drainage, we have a programme of drainage schemes for municipal towns and recently we have decided on the execution of these schemes so as to enable us to take up part schemes which are considered urgent and which could not be taken up if we enforced the old rule of complete sanction to the whole scheme. I hope that when the new arrangement comes into force we shall be in a position to take up many urgent schemes which are part schemes and this, I expect, would enable us to ask several municipalities to complete urgent parts of their drainage schemes.

"Concerning rural sanitation, our chief problem is that of cholera. I hope that with larger budget allotment in the coming years and the provision of protected water-supply in our villages, we shall be able to deal with the problem more satisfactorily in the future than in the past. I do not think I need refer here to all our difficulties in dealing with the problem of cholera. We are not merely providing for the free distribution of medicines, but we are considering various ways in which we can tackle the problem of village water-supply either by the improvement of village ponds or by the sinking of wells or by providing tube wells and so on, as each separate area demands a separate treatment. One of our great difficulties in dealing with this problem of cholera is, in some places, the very abundance of water-supply. Taking, for example, the case of the district of Tanjore which is intersected by net-works of rivers and channels our problem is rather one of preventing the people from getting into trouble by the very abundance of their water-supply, because cholera starting from the head of the delta spreads throughout and all the villages in the delta are affected soon after the head of these canals and rivers are affected with cholera. The matter is under investigation and I hope we shall be able to devise a satisfactory method for keeping within limit this particular trouble.

"Concerning smallpox, I believe, we have the matter fairly under control. During my recent inspection I found however that the provision for hospital treatment was quite inadequate. The question is however a difficult one; I mean the question whether we should provide isolation hospitals and whether we should have isolation and compulsion. I believe it may be many a long day before we are able to enforce compulsion in this matter. But we do hope that in the coming years when new hospitals spring up in many of our mufassal stations, we shall be in a position to make a beginning in the matter of these isolation hospitals by using the old buildings which are no longer required.

"We are also trying in the coming year to tackle the problem of malaria. We intend placing an officer on special duty in connection with the malaria

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problem and as we get experience we hope to be able to tackle the problem satisfactorily. The question of the free distribution of quinine which some hon. Members raised at question time is also receiving consideration. I hope we shall be able to put into force the suggestion to distribute quinine freely in certain areas. We are also trying to deal with the problem of hookworm and several district boards, I am glad to say, are taking interest in this matter, particularly the District Board of Madura. I must confess that there is a great deal of apathy and indifference in this matter.

3 p.m. "I do hope that, when we are to publish the results of what is being done by the District Board of Madura, other district boards will follow suit and tackle this very serious problem so as to minimise the economic loss that is caused by this disease.

"Under medical relief we have provided nearly Rs. 15 lakhs for Civil Works alone. The budget provision for Civil Works—Medical—in Madras is Rs. 5.7 lakhs and for the mufassal the provision is Rs. 9 lakhs. I refer to this point because several hon. Members of this House remarked that we were trying to help Madras at the sacrifice of the interests of the mufassal parts. I do not think that is true. That is why I said that the budget provision for the mufassal is almost double the provision for medical civil works in Madras. Besides providing for improvements to the General Hospital, hon. Members will notice that in the budget we have provided large sums of money for improvements to the hospitals at Guntur, Coimbatore and Vizagapatam and for the Medical Schools of Guntur, Coimbatore and Tanjore. We are also constructing a new headquarter hospital at Madura. Concerning the General Hospital about which several hon. Members have spoken, it will be noticed that our budget provision for the next year is only Rs. 2 lakhs and I feel that hon. Members possibly are not in possession of the full facts that led the Government to determine on the present form of improvements to the General Hospital. The hospital was started about 50 years ago and during all the years that have gone not many improvements have been carried out. I can say with certainty that the present General Hospital is not a credit to the city of Madras. I am sure that if hon. Members would care to go and pay a visit to the hospital and examine it, they will agree with me that it is good time that we have started to make the General Hospital a central place of treatment on up-to-date lines and in keeping with the requirements of modern science,—to make it a model hospital and a model teaching institution for this Presidency. One of our chief requirements in General Hospital is the want of a good out-patient department. Hon. Members of this House who are doctors and others who have had occasion to visit the General Hospital will know about the very great inadequacy of the present accommodation in the out-patient department, and how very unsatisfactory the present arrangements are. Besides the out-patient department, the estimates provide for a new Surgical block and an Operation theatre. It should have an up-to-date Surgical block and an up-to-date Operation theatre. I think hon. Members will admit that the present Operation theatre of the General Hospital is not anything to be proud of. I shall be justified in using stronger language. I think the requirements of the present day surgical treatment necessitate the provision of an up-to-date Surgical block and an up-to-date Operation theatre as well. Another important item in the new scheme of the improvement of the General

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Hospital is a new X-Ray Department. The present X-Ray Department is housed in a temporary building hon. Members of the House would have noticed that some patients are lying in verandas and outside. The department which is so inadequately housed has to deal with about 52,000 patients a year. I think it will generally be admitted that the present arrangements are entirely out of date. Another item that we have provided is a new Venereal and Leprosy block. It is now recognised that venereal disease has not received the attention that is required. The economic loss resulting from venereal disease has not been fully realised. I feel that hon. Members will admit that the provision of a new Venereal and Leprosy block comes not a day too soon. I think the hon. Member from Malabar stated that the new General Hospital did not provide for any single new bed. As a matter of fact, the new hospital will provide for 30 extra beds. The condition that necessitates 120 beds to be accommodated in temporary sheds at present in the hospital compound is not a thing to be proud of. Other Madras hospitals provide altogether for 450 beds. The new General Hospital will provide for 528 beds. Taking the total of the beds available in all the hospitals in Madras to be a thousand, it is not much for a population of nearly 6 lakhs. One important fact I might refer to on this subject is that about 45 per cent of the cases dealt with in the General Hospital come from the mufassal. I may mention that point in particular because it is complained that the hospital was catering entirely to the citizens of the Madras City. This fact that there a large percentage of cases from the mufassal cities and villages treated in the hospital, will go to prove that by providing for the General Hospital in Madras we are also providing for the requirements of the mufassal. The hon. Lady Member stated that there was no provision in the budget for the treatment of venereal disease. I think that is a mistake. It will be seen that there is a provision for this purpose. It was also urged that we should provide for the free treatment of venereal disease. The matter is under consideration and on calculation it was found that if we were to provide for free treatment, the annual cost would come to Rs. 10 lakhs. We could not therefore decide without further consideration when such a large outlay has to be incurred. Concerning the Children's Hospital in Madras, the present accommodation in our hospital is for 106 beds. The question whether we should provide for concentrated treatment and whether we should provide for a central Children's hospital will receive due consideration. The question of improvements to the Victoria Gosha Hospital is still under consideration and we have not yet arrived at any conclusions.

"Several hon. Members have referred to the proposal that has been under consideration for some time by Government, of taking over the entire financial responsibility for the taluk headquarter hospitals. This necessarily means a large amount of annual outlay. We shall have to appoint about 140 new assistant surgeons and displace sub-assistant surgeons and the annual expenditure will probably amount to Rs. 5 lakhs. We have not arrived at any conclusions in this matter, but it is very likely that we shall agree to take over those hospitals provided we are able to make the necessary financial arrangements.

"Concerning rural medical relief to which some hon. Members have referred, I may say that in the coming year's budget we are making provision for the establishment of about 387 rural dispensaries, at the rate of three

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for every taluk. Up to date the number of rural dispensaries opened is 59 so that we are practically providing in the budget for a very much larger number in the coming year. The present rate of contribution is Rs. 600 per annum in the case of rural dispensaries employing assistant surgeons and Rs. 400 in the case of those employing sub-assistant surgeons. The question of increasing this subsidy is receiving consideration. Several hon. Members have urged that the rate should be increased. This question will be dealt with in connection with the scheme for taking over the taluk head-quarter hospitals because in case we relieve the district and taluk boards of the expenditure of about Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 lakhs it would be necessary to consider the question of this subsidy and to consider the duty of the taluk and district boards to run these institutions.

"Several hon. Members have referred to the question of opening Ayurvedic dispensaries. As I said in reply to questions put at question time, our present difficulty has been in the matter of finding suitable people to run these Ayurvedic dispensaries. Our idea has been always to employ the graduates of the new Indian School of Medicine in these dispensaries."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Do the candidates in that school get degrees?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"They are given diplomas. We have no objection to the local bodies such as district boards, etc., opening such dispensaries at their own cost. I shall also consider the question of employing Ayurvedic doctors who hold diplomas from Indian Schools of Medicine in other places. The matter requires examination; it was brought to me only recently and I had not time enough to consider the question."

"Sir, concerning the question of Excise, hon. Members of the House are aware that the policy hitherto pursued was one of minimum consumption and maximum revenue. It is easy for me to produce facts and figures to prove that consumption has been steadily decreasing for a series of years, while the revenue has remained nearly stationary or it has gone down slightly."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"From what year?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"The consumption has certainly been reduced, and I do not think I need argue the question; but the chief point in which I think hon. Members are interested is the question of future policy. (Hear, hear.) Government have already accepted prohibition as the goal, and it is their intention to work up to that goal as far as possible and press forward as cautiously as possible. (Laughter.) I deprecate, Sir, the placing of any time-limit for the attainment of the goal, for the reason that we have to study the various implications of the question, not merely the financial aspect of the question but what exactly we have to do. Surely, Sir, the financial aspect of the matter is important. If that is the only difficulty, I should not say very much about it; but we have to see really how much we can do and how far we can proceed in the various areas. We have already been carrying out experiments in prohibition in certain taluks, and as I said, it is my intention to proceed further. We have already ordered the continuance of these experiments for another two years, and it is my intention to start prohibition experiments in some

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other areas also. It is embarrassing to me to mention the areas; but I have had a talk with some Members of the House and I have told them what I propose doing."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Very large areas ? "

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Yes. I have my reasons for not mentioning the areas. I do not do it because I think it will lead to a considerable amount of embarrassment; but I do intend to proceed further. In regard to the prohibition of arrack also, I intend to carry out an experiment. As regards foreign liquor, I must say that it is my intention to stop foreign liquor, that is, stop F.L. 5 licences in certain areas. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: 'Hear, hear'.) But let me assure the House, Sir, that we do intend proceeding definitely forward. I should like to say that in this matter which is so important and in which there are several complications, it is absolutely necessary that we should proceed step by step, making sure that every step that we take is the right one. It should not be said of us that we rushed rashly and rapidly forward and that we were not able to maintain the pace.

" I have only one matter to refer to, Sir, and I shall be done, and that is the question of Indianization. Some hon. Members on all sides of the House referred to the question of Indianization. One hon. Member referred to the Excise department in particular. I think, Sir, it is a fact that there are only a few Indians in the highest ranks of the Excise department, but I believe that in course of time this is bound to disappear. In the Medical and in the Public Works Departments there is nothing to prevent Indians from occupying the highest places, and I do hope that in the years to come, we shall have Indians occupying the highest places provided they are found qualified to occupy such places.

3-15
p.m.

" I have very little to add, Sir, except to say that apart from the Budget, it seems likely that we may be able to do better than is indicated in it. It is our intention to take advantage, as far as may be possible, of the remission of the Imperial contributions, and when the time comes, I do hope that the Transferred departments will share in the fullest, the benefits that the country expects would accrue from the remission of the contributions."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am obliged to you for having prescribed a time by which the eloquence of the Treasury Bench should automatically terminate. I should have been still more grateful to you, Sir, if you had prescribed a time limit for the speeches . . . "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. Ordinarily the Council will adjourn at 5 o'clock. The period of three days is to terminate at 5 o'clock to-day, but as we have encroached upon the lunch hour, I thought, in fairness to the Government, the sitting should continue till half past five."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I was going to say Sir, that I should have been still more grateful if you had also put a time-limit on the speeches . . . "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. I thought the Cabinet was a united Cabinet. As for the time, they can agree among themselves to adjust their speeches in such a way as to give time for the hon. the Finance

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Member to make a reply. The rules require that the hon. the Finance Member must have his say at the end of the debate." (Hear, hear.)

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Well, Sir, all my colleagues would have been at one with me in cordially accepting that ruling if it had been given."

" First of all, Sir, I must express my sense of gratitude to the kindly spirit which animated all the speeches that were delivered in this House in connection with the Budget. I am conscious of the fact, Sir, that we have not yet earned their kindness, but I hope it may be given to us to deserve it later. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, wanted that a few more land mortgage banks should be started. That is an object with which the Government are in entire sympathy. The only drawback is that the people do not seem to be as enthusiastic as one would like them to be in this matter. We wanted to have eight banks, Sir, but seven only have been formed so far, and of these seven only two are functioning. I appeal, therefore, to the House that it is far better to see that the banks that have been so far formed are established on a sure and satisfactory foundation, so that they may be examples to be followed by other branches elsewhere, than to have too many of them. He also suggested the opening of one or two agricultural schools. I wanted to acquaint myself with the working of these schools and I took the earliest opportunity of visiting the admittedly better of these schools; but I cannot say that I came out with any gratifying sense of the achievements of the school. These are matters, Sir, in which not only one person on one side has to take interest, but in which all have to co-operate and make the experiment successful. I am just for the moment concerned with the question as to how these schools should be reorganised, what standards should be prescribed as qualifications for the students admitted to these schools, and what age limit we should lay down for the students who seek admission to these institutions. After all, Sir, the money which is going to be spent on these schools is the people's money, and surely the House cannot be satisfied, and I would say should not be satisfied, if we on this side simply go on starting more schools without regard to the fact as to how far they are really beneficial and serve the object for which they have been instituted.

" My hon. Friend, Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar asked, why the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should not be an Indian. May I say, Sir, that there is absolutely no objection to that department being in of an Indian? I may also remind the House that in the past years there have been among the several officers who held that distinguished office, as many as six Indians."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" How many after the Reforms? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Three after the Reforms."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Temporary and acting? "

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" So that, Sir, as I have already stated, there is really nothing that stands in the way of Indians being appointed to that post."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Appoint one permanently."

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* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Well, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Member for the University, knows as well as I do what is really due in these matters. I have no doubt that many more opportunities will be given to me to amplify my statement; but in view of the short time at my disposal to finish the speech, let me be allowed to proceed.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. A. B. Shetty, wanted a larger number of experimental and demonstration farms, a large number of demonstrators, at least one for each taluk, a deputy director for each district, who should be placed in charge of Agriculture, Co-operation and Industries, with a view to better co-ordination and economy. I am at one with him, Sir, in thinking that we should have a larger number of experimental and demonstration farms and also a larger number of demonstrators. But I find that the difficulty to some extent has been in securing people qualified for these places. I am happy to say that the Agricultural College at Coimbatore is now attracting a larger number of students than before, and I do hope that with the increased popularity of this institution, we shall be able to secure in larger numbers competent people to carry on this much-needed work in the country. I am not quite so enthusiastic, Sir, if I may say so, about the appointment of a deputy director. I would rather like to make the foundation broad and stable before I build an edifice on it. As regards the last idea of co-ordinating Agriculture, Co-operation and Industries, that is one which has been off and on examined by the Government, and examined, as a whole, in a sympathetic spirit; but the difficulty I think lies in securing any one officer who could be called an expert in every one of these branches, not only at one time but in succession. To obviate this advantage, Sir, I have decided that there should be a quarterly conference of the Director of Industries, the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the Minister and his Secretary, so that from time to time the various problems and difficulties that beset each department may be considered and steps taken to see what could be done to obviate those difficulties and also to co-ordinate and push forward the different activities that are now being carried on by those departments.

“ Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, also suggested that we must do something to help the ryot to produce more out of his land as well as enable him to get a better price for his produce. We are forming primary societies to get improved implements and seeds so that they may be available to members. I may also tell for the information of the House that we are also starting what are called irrigation societies to enable the ryots to sink wells and instal engines for the benefit of members owning lands beside these wells. I am glad to say that the few experiments that have been carried on so far are yielding gratifying results and I hope they will spread even more. For the joint sale of members' produce also, we are taking some interest in the matter and we are granting loans for the construction of godowns or granaries to societies who concerned are in need of them. We are making the terms on which the societies could find money for these godowns as favourable as we could make them.

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p.m.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Chavadi Subrahmanya Pillai, referred to many of the grave defects existing in several societies in the Co-operative department. I shall not say that I am blind to them I am and glad, Sir, that even non-official agency is alive to this fact. It is a matter of great satisfaction to one and all that they are trying to tackle the problem in right

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earnest, more often by their own efforts than by efforts aided by Government. With these exertions I hope a better state of things might soon come into existence in these areas where things are not what they should be.

"My hon. Friend, Dr. Nagan Gowda, complained that here in India we grow much less wheat and much less rice per acre than in other countries in the world. His complaint has some justification. I find, for example, in Germany the yield of wheat is 20·4 per what they call hectare, that is, 2·4 acres and with their measure having 100 lb. as the unit, while in France it is 16, in Denmark 24·3 and in India it is 6·5. Because we are conscious of this drawback in our own country, the Agricultural Department has been organised to remove it.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, complained of lapses in the Budget allotment under Transferred heads. I think his statement is true to a certain extent; but the causes for them are not all to be deprecated. If, for example, the lapse is due to the absence of an officer on leave or to his being substituted by one on a lesser pay, surely the hon. Member can have no reason to complain of; but one of the reasons has been the delay in starting the new paddy breeding station at Pattambi and the postponing to the next year of the opening of the agricultural middle school for Kerala. But I hope they will soon be set going in the coming year.

"As regards the Registration department, more than one Member referred to the need for reducing the registration fees. My hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, also gave expression to the same sentiment. I have no doubt that such a suggestion coming as it does from such a quarter, will receive all the consideration it deserves.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, referred to the decrease of revenue in the Industries department and to the decrease of profits in the commercial concerns run by that department. He also gave certain figures for which I am unable to find references. If perhaps he would explain to me later on how he came by those figures, it may enable me to answer him, but this much is a fact that the estimate figures show a decline in receipts. It is however partly due to the fact that a new rule has been introduced, by which the interest on the capital invested in these concerns should be deducted from what hitherto was being treated as the profit of these concerns. I am trying, Sir, to account for what is apparent on a perusal of the Budget figures and so I think my explanation is more or less germane.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, is naturally keen on having a school in his own district, an industrial school. The other place which is competing with his plan is Calicut in his neighbouring district. Let me say, Sir, that I have tried to acquaint myself with the conditions of both the districts and I hope that any arrangement we may come to will be found satisfactory to himself as well as to the people of the neighbouring district. There was one complaint made that the Industries department has not succeeded in establishing any pioneer industries in the province. I am well aware of the huge task that is in front of us and of how little we have been able to achieve so far; but that does not justify us in ignoring all that has been done in the past, and so discourage future attempts in the same direction. Have we not heard of the fact that aluminium industry has been introduced, and it is a successful concern? Have we not heard of the pencil factory, of the soap factory and other such concerns? Well, Sir, while some

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of the ventures have been successful, and there are others which have proved unsuccessful. But after all we never started with the idea that every endeavour of ours will prove a success."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"What about jam?"

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has perhaps been busy otherwise. Or he would have heard me when I said that there were some undertakings which have proved a failure. We do not start with the idea, as I said, that every endeavour is bound to be a success.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Harisarvottama Rao, referred to some frantic efforts on our part to secure an assistant officer to our Director of Industries. May I assure him, Sir, that he need not be scared away that we have any such proposals on hand. There was one matter which was referred to by my hon. Friends Mr. Wood and Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar, namely, the great use which people were deriving by the boring and pumping plants which have been introduced. I was particularly pleased to hear Mr. Wood saying that they were worth while being extended to other areas even if the extension involved some loss."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Who are the manufacturers?"

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, if my hon. Friends would kindly refer me to a place or places where the same instruments can be had for the purpose we have in view and that nearer home, surely his suggestion would be taken into consideration; but, I should certainly, from the point of view of the cultivator, like to get it, even if it be from a foreign country, if thereby I am going to make the ryot less susceptible to the seasonal variations of the country.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Tulasiram, referred at great length to the departments under my charge. I am expecting from him a note containing his definite and considered ideas in regard to all the matters that have been referred to by him, and I hope to receive it in the course of a short time. When that is in hand, I shall certainly not keep it idle with me but shall proceed to devote my earnest attention, because I take it he is speaking on a subject about which he knows a good deal.

"Sir, after we adjourned for lunch, my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed had the courtesy to pass on to me a speech which he wanted to read, but which he could not read in the House for want of time; and in view of the fact that you were good enough to say that the unread portion of it be handed over to the office . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Shall we have the same convention regarding the undelivered portion of speeches on the Treasury Bench?"

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"It was never my idea at the outset to take up much of the time of the House if I could help it. If it is so desired, that I may sit down now, I shall certainly do so, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I only wanted to know whether it is his wish to have the same convention in the case of the undelivered portion of written speeches on the Treasury Bench to go to the Press."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I do not know, Sir, why the first ruling was given and under what circumstances. If perhaps I am

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apprised of these things, I may be able to give my humble opinion in the matter.

"To continue, Sir, the hon. Member referred to one fact which I think it is important for the House to know and that is that some research work should be carried on in industrial machinery. I just wanted to say that that is a subject which is engaging my earnest consideration. The present Industrial Engineer is so much occupied with the work on hand that he has no time to devote any special attention to carry on this research work. After examining the matter and if I find that with the present staff it is not possible to start such work, I propose to ask my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, and the House for additional grants for this and many other purposes which I hope the Council and my hon. Colleague will find their way to grant.

"With these words, I thank you, Sir, and the House for the patient hearing that has been given to me."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not mean to follow my Colleagues in dealing with individual speeches that have been delivered on the floor of this House. On the other hand I mean to touch on the salient features that have been noticed by hon. Members who have spoken in this debate.

3-45 P. M. "To begin with, Sir, I am sure hon. Members will understand that this is what I may call a carrying on budget, that is, the Ministry now sitting on the Treasury Bench have taken over a budget as was left by my hon. Friends, the ex-Ministers; and we have not had time to examine policies which we can put forward for consideration before this House. As I said, I mean to take on hand the amendment of the Elementary Education Act and make it possible for us to have a more rapid expansion of elementary education than has hitherto been found possible. Hon. Members will understand that there has been no expansion of elementary education during the last five years. (Hear, hear) (A voice: 'Question'.) I shall explain further to my hon. Friend the ex-Minister for Education. (Mr. S. Sātyamurti: 'He is the ex-Minister, thank God'.) Well, Sir, I had figures carefully prepared for one district in the matter of expansion of elementary education and I shall give them for what they are worth to my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro. The figures are these. In the matter of elementary education we begin with 160,000 students in the first standard, and by the time the fourth standard is opened, we have only 30,000 students. If that is the case, Sir, I would ask my hon. Friend in all earnestness whether he calls this expansion of elementary education." (Hear, hear.)

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"May I ask for further explanation, Sir?"

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I will explain still further, Sir. If a person is to be literate, he ought at least to have four years' education at a school, because if a student leaves school after the first standard, he is as illiterate as anybody else for the simple reason that he has not had enough training to remember what had been taught to him. It might be my hon. Friend had to take over things as they had existed and had to think about it and he did not find it possible to do more. I do not blame him for that, but I only say that the principle of expansion of elementary education has

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not had its due effect, and I hope that whenever the time comes, be it long or short, for me to lay down my office, it will be possible for me to say that there has been real expansion. (Hear, hear.)

“In the matter of village roads, my hon. Friend, the Raja of Panagal, said that the provision made was too little. May I remind him, Sir, that the provision as found in the budget is just as he left it. But with the larger funds which will be available at the hands of the Provincial Government. . . .”

* The RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“As a matter of personal explanation, may I say this, Sir? What I said was that taking into consideration the fact that we have had a large surplus, I was rather surprised to see very little provision for village roads.”

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“My hon. Friend, I am sure, will understand that the large surplus came long after the budget was finished in the Finance Department. Coming to the point, I may say this, that if I feel that to secure advancement it is the right way to improve village communications in this province, I will be the first man to fight my hon. Friend the Finance Member (hear, hear) and have a larger provision made for village roads. But, as I have said, these are all in an experimental stage, and Government sitting here ought not to fritter away funds merely because they have to show to the public that they are advancing. We must be sure of our ground before we put forward our schemes and spend money on them.”

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“Is the question of village communications an experiment, Sir?”

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“It is an experiment in this sense, Sir. I feel that the funds that have been allotted to local bodies have not been spent in an adequate way.” (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“It mostly comes under Elections, probably.” (Laughter.)

An hon. Member rose to interrupt the speech.

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“I am sure my hon. Friend will have enough time to refer to these things, and I hope he will not interrupt me in the manner he is doing. Mr. President, with regard to the question of nominations I do feel as earnestly as my hon. Friends opposite that this question of nominations has not been dealt with as adequately as it ought to be (hear, hear), and this question cannot be tackled in a day. We shall soon have an amendment of the Local Boards Act and I hope it will be possible to make it impossible for such patronage to be exercised. (Voices: ‘Hear, hear’ and ‘Quite right.’) I for one have always felt, and said so many a time, that politicians ought not to use local boards as jumping grounds for seats in the Legislative Council (A voice: ‘Quite true’), and I hope for the sake of my hon. Friends here, those belonging to the depressed classes, Muhammadans and Christians, that with regard to them, as they say it is impossible for them to find places on local bodies, I hope some scheme will be evolved by which they may have representation by election, or if that is not possible, by nomination.

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"I am afraid I will be trenching on a department which is under the control of my hon. Colleague the Excise Minister, but I would only like to point out this. My hon. Friend the Raja of Panagal stated that we came out of a party which was committed to prohibition."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"What about his party?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is what I am going to say, Sir. In the great Non-Brahman Confederation that was held at Madura and was presided over by my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro who was till recently the Minister for Excise, they solemnly passed a resolution that prohibition is their goal. If that is so, I would ask them in all earnestness what they did during the five years they were in office, during the five years he was in charge of the Excise department?"

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Look into the records."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think it will be for the convenience of hon. Members on the Treasury Bench if there is less disturbance to their speeches because they have got a time-limit within which they have to finish, and hon. Members of the House will have ample opportunities by way of token motions during the next ten days' sitting of the Council to discuss all these matters to their satisfaction. I would therefore request the Members of the House not to disturb the Members on the Treasury Bench by their interruptions."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Sir, hon. Members opposite will rarely realise the difficulties of hon. Members on the Treasury Bench as much as my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro, while he was here as Minister for Education. We have to go forward carefully though slowly and in regard to local option also we shall have to see that this experiment is going to be a success. It is only by experiments that we can hope to reach that stage, it is only by experiments that the goal aimed at by all parties in this country can be reached."

"Some of my hon. Friends from the Andhra University area complained that there is no adequate provision made for the Andhra University. There again, Sir, I am sorry I have to differ from my hon. Friend who was Minister for Education. There again, as I said from that side of the House, the Minister had different principles to begin with. But when the Act finally came out of this House, it became exactly what he did not intend it to be."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The House wanted it."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is what I am saying. He got it carried as the House wanted it. So, with regard to finding funds for the Andhra University, I may tell my hon. Friends opposite that I am even now willing, now that the provincial contribution has been remitted, to give them adequate provision so that the Andhra University might become a centre of culture for the Andhras in the Andhra Desh. (Hear, hear.)"

"Some of my friends referred to grants to aided schools. I am sure they will realize, as even my hon. Friend who was here before me realized that the future of secondary education in this country depends largely on aided schools and private management. And when such is the case, I am sure, Sir, hon. Members opposite will agree with me that we must have a revised Grant-in-Aid Code (hear, hear) before we can proceed on sound

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lines acceptable to Members on both sides of this House. (A voice: 'Quick please.') I hope my hon. Friend will have no reason to complain because I am coming to the end of my speech. (A voice: 'He wanted you to be quick with the Grant-in-Aid Code amendment.') With regard to the Grant-in-Aid Code, Sir, I may say this, that I am trying to have it amended as soon as possible, but I am sure hon. Members will realize that it is not as easy a matter as they imagine, and it will take time before we can bring it up in a shape acceptable to all parties. Now, I have nearly done, Sir. I only mean to deal with the District Municipalities Act. That again is one that has got to be amended, and I hope hon. Members will soon have before them an amending Bill. Already my hon. Friend the Raja Sahib had a Bill prepared which in many respects is acceptable to me as well, and I hope that the Bill will soon be introduced into the House. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'What about the Corporation Act?') Hon. Members ask what about the Corporation Act. That again perhaps needs amendment, but there are too many legislative measures as I have already mentioned, and I hope that I shall also be able to deal with the City Municipal Act.

"Finally, Sir, I mean to say only one word because my hon. Friend forgot to mention it before he sat down, and it is this. My hon. Friend has under consideration the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, and I hope that the Bill that will be introduced by him at the next meeting will be acceptable not only to this side of the House, but also to the other. With these few words let me, through you, Mr. President, thank all hon. Members for the great kindness and courtesy shown to the Members on the Treasury Bench." 4 p.m.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I should just like to say one or two words with regard to the criticisms that have been advanced by hon. Members with regard to the departments under my charge. My hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar and some others brought to the notice of the Government that something should be done to improve the status and pay of the midwives. With regard to the improvement of the pay of the midwives, I think it is a question more for the municipalities and local boards. As regards the status, I may remind the hon. House that about this time last year a Bill was passed—the Nurses and Midwives Registration Bill—by means of which we have given a distinct status to those who have qualified themselves as midwives. Not only that, we have prescribed certain qualifications by which the indigenous midwives known as dhais might be brought under the scope of the Act.

"It has been said that in the Jails Department the expenditure has been on the increase. I would like to take the hon. Members of this House through certain figures.

"In 1923-24 the expenditure under 'Jails' was Rs. 31,04,447; in 1924-25 it was Rs. 29,38,657; in 1925-26 it was Rs. 30,01,333; in the revised estimates, 1926-27, it was Rs. 29,76,000 and in the budget estimate for 1927-28 it is Rs. 31,51,700.

"It will be seen from these figures that the expenditure under 'Jails' is not much on the increase. It is more or less on the same level. From the revised estimates for 1926-27 and the budget estimate for 1927-28, the figures relating to Reformatory and Certified schools, Rs. 95,800 and

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Rs. 1,09,400 respectively, have to be excluded. These figures were not included in the Jails budget in the previous years. These items have been brought under the Jails budget owing to the change recently made, namely, the transfer of the Reformatory and the Certified schools from the control of the Director of Public Instruction to that of the Inspector-General of Prisons. Besides that, Sir, I should also like to point out that on the receipts side in 1923-24, we have got about Rs. 6,46,256; in 1924-25, Rs. 7,58,750; in 1925-26, Rs. 8,98,741; and in 1926-27, Rs. 8,29,500; and again, in the budget estimate for 1927-28 we have got Rs. 8,85,600. It will be seen from these figures that there has been a large increase in the receipts of the Jails department. These receipts are due largely to the activities of the Jail Manufacturing Departments as the result of the recent recommendations made by the Jail Industries Committee. I should like to say, Sir, that in order that we might not throw the whole burden of maintaining jails upon the taxpayer, we have introduced in almost every jail some kind of jail industry or other. And it is from these that we have got much of the income about which I have quoted figures just now. In dealing with the question of Jail industries, I may say that it is not the intention of the Government to compete with private enterprise in any way.

"We have, I think, issued a Government Order to that effect, and our only object is to see that those who are in jails are taught some kind of industry or other and at the same time lessen the burden of taxation upon the taxpayers. Besides this, Sir, in these civilized days, even jails have to be maintained on progressive lines. They have got amenities of their own. For these reasons, we have to spend every year something in order that we might make the lives of these unfortunate people as happy as we possibly can. My hon. Friend, Mr. Madhavan Nayar, has drawn the attention of Government to the state of health of M. P. Narayana Menon. I understand from the report that I have just now received that he was 127 lb. when he was admitted from the Central Jail to the Penitentiary and now he is 120 lb. There has been variations of rise and fall in his weight for the last three years, the lowest being 120 lb. Of course, about six months ago there was a drop in his weight to 102 lb. but he has carefully been given medical attention and I am glad that the First Physician of the General Hospital thinks that the present health of the prisoner is excellent. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that certain extras should be given to him in the matter of dietary and also that he has been suffering from some kind of throat trouble and that he should be attended to. I shall bring these to the notice of the authorities. I have no doubt that he is being attended to carefully. As far as we have information at present, his state of health is excellent.

"A general complaint against the Forest department is that there is a small amount of revenue. I should just like to remind hon. Members that Government have taken seriously into consideration the question of making forest a revenue-producing department ever since we have engaged Mr. Martin as Chief Forest Engineer about three or four years ago. We have given effect to various new schemes of exploitation and we have spent and have to spend a lot of money in order that we might carry on these schemes and the ultimate object of Government is that these forests should be made to pay considerable amount of income. We have no doubt whatever that some of these new schemes which have been undertaken by Government are

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showing signs of progress. I think my attention has been called to the fact that some extra grazing facilities should be given in order to counteract the seasonal conditions in certain districts. With regard to that, I may draw the attention of hon. Members to sections 182, 183 and 184 of the Madras Famine Code which permit Collectors of districts to allow free grazing of cattle in open areas and close reserves and, in reply to a question, the hon. the Revenue Member said yesterday morning that the attention of the Collectors of these districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.

"Then, Sir, the question has been raised as to what we have been doing in order to throw out the reserved forests to be assigned for cultivation. I understand that, in 1925-26, 2,792 acres have been given for such assignment. A question has been asked as to what has been done with regard to the forest panchayats. I have just now learnt from the Chief Conservator of Forests that at the end of December 2,300 square miles have been handed over to forest panchayats and at the end of this month 300 more square miles will be handed over to them. I hope, before the end of the year 1927, the total area of about 4,000 square miles will be administered by the forest panchayats.

"With regard to the depressed classes, several hon. Members have spoken of the various disabilities. I may tell them that Government are aware of these disabilities and are trying to do all that they possibly can in order to assist them. One or two hon. Members have said that we ought to allot more money for the depressed classes. I should just like to say that in the year 1921, when we first opened the Labour Department, we spent only 80,000 rupees and in the present budget we have allotted about 10 lakhs of rupees for the Labour Department. So hon. Members will see that we are following a policy by means of which something substantial is being done in order to improve the condition of the depressed classes. A question has also been raised as to how many districts have been brought under the Labour Department. I find that we have already brought thirteen districts under the Labour Department and in the year to come we hope to bring two more districts. Further, it has been said that it is the duty of the Government to see that no impediments are placed in the way of the members of the depressed classes having seats in all representative institutions and I entirely agree with the hon. Members who have said that. It is the intention of the Government to assist them in that object and I may say that hon. Members of the depressed classes will remember that only a few months ago Government have nominated one of their members to the highest Legislature in the land, namely, the Indian Legislative Assembly.

"A grave charge has been laid upon the Mappilla Andaman Colonization Scheme by my hon. Friend, Mr. Syed Ibrahim Sahib. He said that the object of Government in sending these Mappilla prisoners to the Andamans is to convert them to Christianity and for that purpose they have appointed what he called Salvation Army tahsildars. I can deny the charge that has been made by the hon. Member. Government have no such intention whatever and I have tried to find out the names of the tahsildars and officers who have gone to the Andamans from Madras. I find that the first officer who went there in 1923 was Mr. Abraham (a Christian) who came away in 1923. (A voice: 'Why.') He was sent there for certain duty; he did it and came away. Then Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar, a Hindu, was sent there

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afterwards and he returned in 1925. From 1923, we have got Mr. Govindan, a Hindu, as the tahsildar working there. Therefore, there is no meaning in saying that the tahsildar whom we have sent belongs to the Salvation Army. I therefore totally deny the charge made by the hon. Member, Mr. Syed Ibrahim Sahib."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I feel I must be very brief. I only wish to make a few observations upon the general attitude of the House towards the Members of the Reserved Half in regard to the action which they have taken or not taken on the votes of this Council. I suppose all Members of the House are perfectly well aware that it is not in the power of the Provincial Government to change the constitution. In that constitution the Reserved Half is responsible for the administration of Reserved subjects. They have not got any party in the House on whose votes they can rely and if they are to be bound by any vote of the House as mandatory, they will be handicapped in discharging their responsibilities. I will briefly illustrate what I have in my mind by an example. Suppose this Land Revenue Settlement Bill which has received so much disapproval were passed into a law with a provision that any increase of assessment should be carried by means of a Taxation Bill passed by the Council, and then suppose the Reserved Half were to bring in such a Bill in respect of any particular district and this Council rejected it, what would be the position of the Reserved Half? If the Governor certified it, that would only give yet another occasion for the complaint and accusation that we were flouting the Council and so forth. On the other hand, if it were a Ministry who introduced the Bill, they would, on its rejection, resign and the other side would have to take office and find the money. This is not possible in the case of the Reserved side. It is not because of wrongheadedness on our part that we do not follow the votes of the House on every occasion, but because we have to discharge our own responsibilities and cannot be guided by the votes of the House on every occasion. I am not suggesting that this system is a right one and should not be changed. (Hear, hear.) I am not suggesting it is either right or wrong. As I said, that is not the province of the Local Government. I am only commenting on the views and language of Members who spoke about the extraordinary, perverse and wrongheaded way in which we of the Reserved Half are discharging our responsibilities instead of being bound by the votes of the House.

"The next topic which I noted to which one of the Members referred was that the rate of Indianization was not fast.

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"I am rather surprised that some of those remarks came from Members who must be as old as myself, and those old as myself must be able to remember the time when the number of Indians in the services was very few indeed. I do not think that in any Provincial Service now you will find any but Indians, and in the Imperial Services, which by the way are not under the control of this Government in the matter of recruitment, the rate of Indianization has been recently laid down on the recommendations of the Lee Commission which have been accepted by the Secretary of State, and surely every one of us must agree that it is progressing at a rate (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: 'A snail'), perhaps it is not quite as fast as some of us wish but it is as fast as we can very well expect, having regard to the claims of those already in the services. I will not go into further details on the subject, as I have a suspicion that the point was raised merely as a political criticism on the preceding Ministry.

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"The next point which I have noted on my list is the criticism that there is not enough money provided for minor irrigation works. We have during the current year and for the next year provided four lakhs more than previously. I admit that I am not satisfied with the allotment. But I should like the House to remember that if you retrench a department and reduce expenditure as was done in recent years it is not possible in a year or two to work it up again to the past standard of expenditure, leave alone a higher standard. We are giving the subject unremitting attention, and we hope that in a year or two we will be able to further increase the grant and do the work that is undoubtedly necessary in many districts.

"The next question I would like to refer to is rather a difficult one to explain, and that is the revenue aspect of what is known as the inclusion fee and the inducement fee in the Godavari and Kistna deltas. These have become local current expressions and give rise to a certain amount of misapprehension. What is called an inducement fee is not a fee at all. It arose in this manner, that at the last settlement, that is, in 1896 or 1897, when it was proposed to assess certain lands, which were ordinarily irrigated as wet, objections were raised and it was asked that they should be kept as dry. Well, the Government of that day decided that the land might be treated as dry and that it should be charged as water rate the difference between wet and dry plus rupee one. That one rupee is not collected as anything but as a water rate. No doubt it was an inducement to the ryot to apply for registration as wet, when he would not have to pay the rupee extra. The inclusion fee, on the other hand, was part of a scheme by which a greater area in the delta could be brought under irrigation, if improvements were made in remodelling the channels and in improving the drainage. It was suggested—I do not know how the suggestion emanated—that if a fee of Rs. 25 per acre for dry lands was paid, the Government would have funds to carry out those works. It was then that an offer was made that the lands would be included in the ayacut if this fee was paid. A condition was made at the same time that in the case of lands which were not irrigated by free flow, their level should be reduced so as to enable them to be irrigated by free flow. The reason for this condition was that such lands were being irrigated by cross-bunding the channels to the detriment of holders of lands lower down. The consequence of that was that some of the lands that could not be irrigated by opening the channels, as they were owned by cultivators lower down, got the necessary water. Where this inclusion fee has been paid, the lands have been transferred to wet, wherever the lowering of the level has been carried out, and in that case, of course, the extra amount paid as water rate automatically has disappeared. In cases where the lowering of the level has not been done, the change has not been carried out. Of course, it is open to the ryot at any time to lower the level and have the change made. There were some other minor conditions which it would take long to go into now, but I have stated the main position.

"The other matters referred to by hon. Members were all particular cases, and, so far as I am concerned, as I fortunately or unfortunately am the first Member to move for a detailed grant and will therefore have an opportunity of receiving the criticisms of the House for the full period of time available, I will not go into these cases now.

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"I only wish to add that I must deny the accusation made by an hon. Gentleman, I think the Member from Trichinopoly, that Government has not kept their promise in the matter of supplying trucks for the removal of sand. The Government did not promise to supply trucks without limit for whatever amount of sand that had to be cleared. What they said at the time when the effect of the floods was greatly felt was that Government would supply free of charge whatever trucks they had in stock and that has been done. I do not know any reason why the Government should go on supplying trucks to the end of time. However, that was not the promise, and what was promised free of charge has been done."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are two varieties of criticism with which I propose to deal, one of an entirely unhelpful and destructive character and the other constructive and helpful. In the former category, I am obliged to include, the random, the vague, the wild, the uninstructed suggestions that have been made from a certain quarter of this House in regard to the Mettur scheme, fortified as that suggestion has been, by a move to cut out the whole of the demand of one crore for Mettur. Sir, it has been my misfortune to encounter from the very moment when the Mettur and the Pykara projects were initiated the unmitigated and relentless opposition of a particular group. It was suggested that the Pykara scheme was going to be the grave of this province's finance; it was suggested that that scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle even before it was started, and, from first to last, attempts have been made to destroy the scheme at its very inception. Let me, for the benefit of this House, assure the hon. Members that I am as keen and as alive as any Member of this House could be, to the possibilities of industrial and other expansion in this country. I am a firm believer in industrialization consonant with the spirit and the traditions of this country. I for one am convinced that so far as the conditions of this Presidency are concerned, and having regard especially to the fact that our coal supply is not indigenous but has to be got from Bihar and Bengal in the development of the vast potentialities in this Presidency, in the development of natural power sources like Papanasam, like Pykara, like Kolab in the Vizagapatam district, in such development lies the future of this country. Keeping that point of view in mind, this Government cancelled the concessions to certain concessionnaires and took back all those concessions into their own hands, remembering that such public utility services are best developed by the Government as a trustee for the people. Therefore, the concessions having been bought back from certain concessionnaires, an attempt has been made, a slow, a laborious, a difficult attempt has been made to push on a project. What is its present position to-day? In spite of leader after leader in a particular journal, which I shall not dignify by naming, in spite of leader after leader in that newspaper from the beginning condemning the scheme, I am in a position to announce to this House to-day that the South Indian Railway has promised to take, subject to certain further arrangements and adjustments being entered into, 50 per cent of the total power output from the Pykara project (hear, hear), to have a ghat line from Trichinopoly to Madura, a line from Dindigul to Erode and a third line as well. Sir, in addition to that, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. O. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, who is conversant with the details of the scheme, will be able to tell the House that 25 per cent of the other power that is producible by the Pykara scheme

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has already been agreed to be taken up by consumers of power like the mills and factory-owners and other industrialists in Coimbatore and proximate areas. The result, therefore, is that of the total power producible by the Pykara scheme 75 per cent has been agreed to be taken up. And inasmuch as further doubts prevailed and further hesitations were aroused, and further dogmas were asserted that the scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle, we appointed a committee, and that committee has reported; and what is its report? It has reported that the Government can with equanimity, can with confidence, proceed to initiate the scheme relying on the possibility of a certain market for the output. Now, Sir, the electrification arising out of the Pykara scheme will, in my opinion, not only benefit the large factory owners, will, in my opinion, not only benefit the big factories and large conglomerations of labour and capital, but also the small industrialist, pardon me, Mr. President, when I say that I visualise a future in which the cottage industries linked one with the other will utilize this output of power for the purpose of avoiding those disagreeable features which disfigure factory life in Europe and America. How better can you do it than by properly developing and utilizing cheap power which is available to us? In this attempt, Sir, I have received nothing but kindness and sympathy from one section, and nothing but hostility, nothing but carping criticism, nothing but destructive tactics from another section of this House. And I leave it to the House to decide whether the attempt is one which the Government is entitled to initiate and carry on in spite of the obstacles and handicaps.

“ Now, Sir, there is one more matter which I desire to say with regard to the Pykara scheme and that is this. With regard to the Pykara scheme and connected schemes, a hydro-electric survey has been going on for a number of years. Mr. Forbes, a very distinguished Engineer of Mysore, who is responsible for the inauguration of that great scheme formulated by Capt. Lotbiniere under the guidance of Sir Seshadri Ayyar in Mysore, has reported to us that there is no tract of country in India so well suited as the Madras Presidency, both in the Northern Circars and in the southern tracts, for the development and utilization of cheap power. Now, what are the centres? Papanasam in the Tinnevely district, with which I shall deal later on and about which the hon. Member from Tinnevely, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, spoke in a manner which was not, I regret to say, very helpful; Pykara; another water-power centre; and Kolab in the Vizagapatam district. These can satisfy many requirements. I shall name some. The Pykara scheme, if properly developed, can produce power adequate enough—and nature has been kind to us in this respect—for the utilization by the rich cotton districts like Coimbatore and other districts in the south, and the power can be taken to Trichinopoly, where a great many industrial concerns have been started, and it can be taken to Madura. At one time, it was thought that the power could be taken to Madras, but the distance is hindering us from such a development. That is one aspect of the scheme.

“ Hon. Members like Mr. Tulasiram are aware that adjunct to Papanasam lie the black cotton districts of Madura and Tinnevely and the factories that are now working are using coal. The Papanasam scheme, if developed, will not only serve the cotton districts but will also be the nucleus for starting the paper industry, because at the back of Papanasam are some of those forests which produce very best pulp possible needed

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"I only wish to add that I must deny the accusation made by an hon. Gentleman, I think the Member from Trichinopoly, that Government has not kept their promise in the matter of supplying trucks for the removal of sand. The Government did not promise to supply trucks without limit for whatever amount of sand that had to be cleared. What they said at the time when the effect of the floods was greatly felt was that Government would supply free of charge whatever trucks they had in stock and that has been done. I do not know any reason why the Government should go on supplying trucks to the end of time. However, that was not the promise, and what was promised free of charge has been done."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are two varieties of criticism with which I propose to deal, one of an entirely unhelpful and destructive character and the other constructive and helpful. In the former category, I am obliged to include, the random, the vague, the wild, the uninstructed suggestions that have been made from a certain quarter of this House in regard to the Mettur scheme, fortified as that suggestion has been, by a move to cut out the whole of the demand of one crore for Mettur. Sir, it has been my misfortune to encounter from the very moment when the Mettur and the Pykara projects were initiated the unmitigated and relentless opposition of a particular group. It was suggested that the Pykara scheme was going to be the grave of this province's finance; it was suggested that that scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle even before it was started, and, from first to last, attempts have been made to destroy the scheme at its very inception. Let me, for the benefit of this House, assure the hon. Members that I am as keen and as alive as any Member of this House could be, to the possibilities of industrial and other expansion in this country. I am a firm believer in industrialization consonant with the spirit and the traditions of this country. I for one am convinced that so far as the conditions of this Presidency are concerned, and having regard especially to the fact that our coal supply is not indigenous but has to be got from Bihar and Bengal in the development of the vast potentialities in this Presidency, in the development of natural power sources like Papanasam, like Pykara, like Kolab in the Vizagapatam district, in such development lies the future of this country. Keeping that point of view in mind, this Government cancelled the concessions to certain concessionnaires and took back all those concessions into their own hands, remembering that such public utility services are best developed by the Government as a trustee for the people. Therefore, the concessions having been bought back from certain concessionnaires, an attempt has been made, a slow, a laborious, a difficult attempt has been made to push on a project. What is its present position to-day? In spite of leader after leader in a particular journal, which I shall not dignify by naming, in spite of leader after leader in that newspaper from the beginning condemning the scheme, I am in a position to announce to this House to-day that the South Indian Railway has promised to take, subject to certain further arrangements and adjustments being entered into, 50 per cent of the total power output from the Pykara project (hear, hear), to have a ghat line from Trichinopoly to Madura, a line from Dindigul to Erode and a third line as well. Sir, in addition to that, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. O. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, who is conversant with the details of the scheme, will be able to tell the House that 25 per cent of the other power that is producible by the Pykara scheme

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matters of fundamental importance relating to the carrying out of irrigation policy, they would constitute a committee composed of experts from other provinces who will advise us in the matter. Well, in response to what has fallen from certain hon. Members of this House, I wish to do this. I shall initiate discussion at once amongst my hon. Colleagues and consider the question whether this matter which is of such importance to many members of this House and is apparently exercising their minds very much should not be referred to that or some other body of advisers. If the committee arrives at some conclusion, then our responsibility is at an end. So far as the Mettur project is concerned, many caustic observations were made. It has been suggested that the personnel ought to be Indianized. The person in charge of the administration is an Indian and is sufficiently alive to the paramount importance of the consideration. I am willing to encounter criticism of that kind from all quarters of the House. But to say that there should be no money given, that six crores of rupees ought not to be spent, that the project should not be carried on until some other investigations are undertaken is puerile, Mr. President, according to my humble submission.

"I have been accused of being partial to one or two districts. The position with regard to the Ceded districts was put very succinctly and very forcibly by certain hon. Members. Let me, very shortly, within the time at my disposal, re-state my views on the matter which have been already stated on the floor of the House. I realize that it is the paramount duty of the State not to give money or remit revenue on encountering a famine, but according to the old adage adopt the policy of 'Prevention is better than cure.' Our experts' advice was that the most profitable site for the location of the Ceded districts reservoir is on the borders of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's territory and the British territory. His Exalted Highness had very many avocations and preoccupations and we could not get any replies to our letters for a long time. The result has been placed before the House more than once. But thanks to the deliberations of a very capable Committee—I shall not appear to be flattering my hon. Colleagues—thanks to the skill, thanks to the engineering equipment and thanks to the ready sympathy which my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, possesses in such an abundant degree, the committee has recommended, if it is possible, to start a reservoir on the borders of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It is for the investigation of that site that this Rs. 25,000 has been included in the budget. It is not merely as an eye-wash, it is not for the purpose of pretending that we are going to do some work in the Ceded districts which we are not earnestly endeavouring to do. It is for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of a site for starting work on the borders of Bombay and Madras where there will be no such difficulty as correspondence and negotiation with any Indian State. The Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee has also made several valuable suggestions as to other directions in which irrigation facilities may be given. They have suggested the examination of certain other irrigation schemes though small, but according to them of much value. Our difficulty in the past thirty or forty years has been that certain schemes started there have, on account of the porosity of the soil or inadequacy of rainfall, have failed. The Committee which went into the pros and cons of the problem have put forward certain resolutions which I shall deal with in the course of the detailed debate on the detailed irrigation budget.

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

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"Now turning to the Tuticorin Harbour and the Papanasam scheme. The hon. Member from Tinnevely, like some other hon. Members, suggested that a feather has not been added to my cap. I do not wear a cap and therefore I do not need any feather. In regard to the Tuticorin Harbour, the position is this. In 1922, the Government sent out an order, asking the various peoples in Tuticorin, including the Commercial interests, to make up their mind whether they wanted a particular harbour development and they also warned the people of Tuticorin that in order to get a harbour of that description they would have immediately to raise the port dues from the then standard to 6 annas, 9 annas and later on to As. 11-3. The people of Tuticorin through their accredited representatives assented. At that time, there was a gentleman who was able to enthuse the people of Tuticorin over the possibilities of this harbour, *in posse* if not *in esse*. Then the Tuticorin Port Trust, the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce and other interests were willing to go on with the scheme. That was in 1923. The scheme was started and there has not been a single deviation in the details of that scheme from the year 1923 to this year. But at the end of 1926 our dredger encountered a new feature, namely, in the course of dredging the harbour at a depth beyond 24 feet we met with what was called sandstone conglomerate in addition to coral and we had to revise the estimate in order to get other dredgers capable of overcoming that difficulty. And this was estimated to cost 27 lakhs extra. When this matter was communicated to the people they said 'We do not want the harbour.' The Government have now resolved to tell the Tuticorin people that if they are not satisfied with the experts they could have some other experts and they (the Government) will also address the Government of India to send their experts and if after examination they do not want the harbour the Government are prepared to stop further progress. Further details will come up in the detailed examination of the budget and I shall have more to say then.

"The hon. Member from Tinnevely spoke of the Papanasam project. I adhere to what I have said. Nobody is more alive than Government to the fact that Papanasam affords an ideal field for hydro electrification and for that purpose we are exploiting the possibilities of the paper industry and the possibility of cotton mills in the locality giving us help by purchasing the power. One last word on this scheme. Hon. Members forget that all these schemes are financed out of loans. Hon. Members will realise that in the case of the Pykara scheme and the Mettur scheme, the Government of India have said that repayment would not be demanded until the proposition became a paying one (Diwan Babadur M. Krishnan Nayar: 'What about interest?') Let me reply to what has fallen from Mr. Krishnan Nayar. He talks of interest, and another hon. Member talked of surcharging me or the Members of the Government with the cost of the project. Let me remind hon. Members of this House that it was by a unanimous resolution of the House that the Mettur project was started, and let me say that if the Irrigation Bill had not been carried it was due as much to Mr. Krishnan Nayar as to anybody else and that it is not up to him or any one else holding his views to ask for surcharging me with the six crores. Unfortunately, I am not able to pay this, nor do I think any of my hon. Colleagues are. (A voice: 'What about the new Irrigation law?'). This was emphasized by me before and also to-day. It happens that in the Tanjore district, representative after representative rose from his seat and said that they would pay not only this water-rate but double the water-rate. Here is

[Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks]

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"I only wish to add that I must deny the accusation made by an hon. Gentleman, I think the Member from Trichinopoly, that Government has not kept their promise in the matter of supplying trucks for the removal of sand. The Government did not promise to supply trucks without limit for whatever amount of sand that had to be cleared. What they said at the time when the effect of the floods was greatly felt was that Government would supply free of charge whatever trucks they had in stock and that has been done. I do not know any reason why the Government should go on supplying trucks to the end of time. However, that was not the promise, and what was promised free of charge has been done."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there are two varieties of criticism with which I propose to deal, one of an entirely unhelpful and destructive character and the other constructive and helpful. In the former category, I am obliged to include, the random, the vague, the wild, the uninstructed suggestions that have been made from a certain quarter of this House in regard to the Mettur scheme, fortified as that suggestion has been, by a move to cut out the whole of the demand of one crore for Mettur. Sir, it has been my misfortune to encounter from the very moment when the Mettur and the Pykara projects were initiated the unmitigated and relentless opposition of a particular group. It was suggested that the Pykara scheme was going to be the grave of this province's finance; it was suggested that that scheme was going to be a Back-bay muddle even before it was started, and, from first to last, attempts have been made to destroy the scheme at its very inception. Let me, for the benefit of this House, assure the hon. Members that I am as keen and as alive as any Member of this House could be, to the possibilities of industrial and other expansion in this country. I am a firm believer in industrialization consonant with the spirit and the traditions of this country. I for one am convinced that so far as the conditions of this Presidency are concerned, and having regard especially to the fact that our coal supply is not indigenous but has to be got from Bihar and Bengal in the development of the vast potentialities in this Presidency, in the development of natural power sources like Papanasam, like Pykara, like Kolab in the Vizagapatam district, in such development lies the future of this country. Keeping that point of view in mind, this Government cancelled the concessions to certain concessionnaires and took back all those concessions into their own hands, remembering that such public utility services are best developed by the Government as a trustee for the people. Therefore, the concessions having been bought back from certain concessionnaires, an attempt has been made, a slow, a laborious, a difficult attempt has been made to push on a project. What is its present position to-day? In spite of leader after leader in a particular journal, which I shall not dignify by naming, in spite of leader after leader in that newspaper from the beginning condemning the scheme, I am in a position to announce to this House to-day that the South Indian Railway has promised to take, subject to certain further arrangements and adjustments being entered into, 50 per cent of the total power output from the Pykara project (hear, hear), to have a ghat line from Trichinopoly to Madura, a line from Dindigul to Erode and a third line as well. Sir, in addition to that, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. O. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, who is conversant with the details of the scheme, will be able to tell the House that 25 per cent of the other power that is producible by the Pykara scheme

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convinced by almost physical contact with the Coom of the necessity for improving it. But the position is this. As a temporary measure, the mouth was kept open some time ago. There were certain pourparlers between the then President of the Corporation and now Leader of the Opposition and a certain Member of the Government, and the Corporation was at one time inclined to contribute one-third of the cost of the improvement of the Coom. Now, my hon. Friends who have said many hard things regarding sums spent on the Metropolitan as opposed to mufassal schemes will no doubt have something to say if the whole of the expenses for improving the Coom is to be met from provincial finances. I am sure some portion of the Corporation finances should also be given to that. Quite apart from that I am free to say that the matter of keeping the Coom at least tolerably neat and clean is one which will engage the attention of the Government and I shall give the matter my attention. For the information of the House, I may add that there have been committees which have reported on the matter and there have been alternative schemes prepared, one for 8 lakhs and the other for 13 lakhs. It will be seen therefore that it is practically a question of financing this scheme either by the Government alone or with the aid of the Corporation finances. In saying this, let me not be understood as throwing cold water on the scheme. If the Corporation has no money immediately at its disposal, it may at least make provision for what may be called a sinking fund and the Government will no doubt be able to consider it.

"Mr. President, I have already taken more than the time allotted to me. Many important subjects have been referred to by hon. Members and I have made a note of them. If occasion arises, I shall refer to them in the detailed discussion. It appeared to be peremptorily necessary that certain misconceptions should be cleared, if possible, once for all."

* The hon. Mr. T. F. MOIR :—“Mr. President, before I refer to the various criticisms levelled against the budget, perhaps I may be allowed to acknowledge the compliments which have been paid by different sections of the House, not I admit relating to the matter contained in the budget, but to its form. I am in no wise responsible for its merits in this respect. It has been the constant endeavour of Mr. Boag and his assistants to attempt to anticipate points on which doubt or difficulty is likely to arise and to see that in such cases as far as possible a clear presentation of the budget figures is placed before the House.

“Even if I were to use all the time at my disposal, Sir, it would not suffice to cover more than a mere fraction of the ground traversed in the course of the last three days. Therefore, I must briefly pass over the political matters which were brought into our discussion.

“I notice that one or two of our new Members—I think Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao is one—spent some time in explaining to us that the conditions under which we discussed the budget were very different from those under which the budget is discussed in the House of Commons. May I assure the hon. Member and others who spoke in the same strain that some of us have sat here for three years and some of us for six years and yet we are perfectly familiar with the contents of this volume (Council Manual) in which the constitution to which he referred is set out much more fully and, if I may say so, more accurately than by him. (Laughter.)

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[Mr. T. E. Moir]

"Again, I have not the time to deal with the impassioned exordium of the speech of the hon. the Member for the University in which he told us how he will deal with the Statutory Commission of 1929 when it appears in Madras. I may merely say that to me, the answer which he proposes to give to that Commission when it appears here, seems to be a somewhat inadequate reply to a plain question, 'What have you done to enable this Province to make use of the opportunities which were given it in 1920'. (Cries of 'Everything in our power'.) May I ask that I be not interrupted? I have not interrupted anybody during these three days as I was saying, I think it a somewhat inadequate answer to the question. 'What have you done to help this Province to utilize the opportunities which were given to it in 1920, and to establish a claim that it is fitted for further advance.' Possibly the hon. Member will be able to devise a more adequate reply by 1929. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'Not with your help'.)

"Nor can I possibly refer to the various criticisms of another category within the time at my disposal. But I may be allowed to refer to the contribution made by Mr. Gopala Menon whose speech contained many thoughtful and thought-provoking points. He will excuse me if I do not attempt to deal with it now, because I think it deserves fuller consideration, and I am not sure that really I have a correct transcript of his speech which contained a good many complicated points. I might also refer to the speech of the Raja of Panagal. If I do not attempt to deal with it, it is because while it seems to be a thoughtful contribution to the question as to what we should do if certain additional funds are placed at our disposal, it hardly comes before us now, but what we have to discuss now is the budget as presented before the House for 1927-28.

"Perhaps I might just glance at the question which has been raised once or twice whether this is a deficit budget. Now, I do not wish in dealing with this question to use any technical language. But taking the question plainly, if I were asked what a deficit budget was, I would say that it was a budget which, for carrying out the revenue purposes of the year to which it belonged, necessitated either borrowing or trenching upon revenues which had not accrued. Now, in that sense the budget before the House is not a deficit budget. It is perfectly true that it proposes to spend a considerable sum in excess of the actual revenues which are proposed to be collected next year. But it does not propose to meet that excess by borrowing or by throwing a burden on future years. It simply proposes to utilize for the purpose funds which we have in hand, the accumulated surplus of the two preceding years. In so doing, what is really happening is that we are utilizing funds which were provided in those two years for certain purposes, but in respect of which short expenditure occurred; for the very same purposes, deferred to the year to come.

"We have had many references to the announcement made in the budget by the Finance Member of the Government of India as regards the possible remission of the balance of our provincial contributions—116 lakhs recurring and 49 lakhs non-recurring for this year. But if I may say so, I am rather surprised at the unanimity with which Members of the House seem to think that the announcement has already been confirmed and that the amount has come to hand. We are still engaged in hunting the financial hare which has been let loose, and there is no lack of *chefs* to tell us how to cook it; but I would remind the House of the old adage of the cookery

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books that you must catch your hare before you cook it. It is, I am glad to think, fairly clear that a great majority of the Members of this House are determined that, so far as they are concerned, the hunt will be continued to a finish.

5 p.m. "It is perfectly true that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy were not so enthusiastic about joining the hunt as some other hon. Members of his party. But I feel sure that they will pluck up courage and spirit and be in at the finish.

"I may now call attention to the fact that even after the expenditure which is proposed in the budget we shall have a balance of about Rs. 40 lakhs and one or two questions which were asked as to why this sum should not also be regarded as free for immediate expenditure. While dealing with the present seasonal conditions, I attempted to explain to the House what our resources were for dealing with any possible contingencies. I referred then to our Famine Relief fund as one of our sheet anchors in regard to this matter. I referred also to this sum of Rs. 40 lakhs from which we will be able to draw, if found to be necessary. For the present I cannot regard this sum as available for expenditure. It may be that the situation will develop more unfavourably than is at present expected. So long as there is a possibility of this kind, we must retain funds in hand in order to meet emergencies. Further after all, a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs is not a very large one for a province of which the income as budgeted for is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 17 crores of rupees, to carry as an opening and closing balance. It does not allow very much margin even in ordinary circumstances, for emergency expenditure such as we know too frequently arises. Conditions, I trust and hope, will alter entirely for the better by the end of the first month of the next monsoon, but until that has occurred I fear I must ask this House to regard Rs. 40 lakhs as reserved for the object to which I have referred.

"My hon. Colleagues, the Ministers, have dealt with the administrative aspects of the activities and developments under their charge. Several questions regarding those activities have been addressed to me direct with reference to the Agricultural Department and various other departments. I am sure hon. Members who put their questions will forgive me if I refrain from trespassing on a sphere which does not belong to me. The administration of these departments is not in my charge and question as to what is the policy of the Agricultural or other department is a question which, I must feel, the hon. the Minister in charge of the department should reply.

"For the last three days the budget has been subjected to concentrated fire and is now lying on the floor of the House in a shattered condition. At any rate, it was the best budget I could produce. (Laughter.) In view of the criticisms which have been directed against it, I have attempted roughly to mould and reconstruct that shattered budget somewhat more closely according to the desires of the hon. Members who sit opposite. Our revenue is about Rs. 16½ crores. One hon. Member, a spokesman of that party, made much of the grievous burden which is placed upon the ryots' shoulders. Another hon. Member pointed to the fact that land in this country was paying 7½ crores revenue. He said not only that that land revenue should be stabilized. I will assume that a crore of rupees will go to the reduction

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matters of fundamental importance relating to the carrying out of irrigation policy, they would constitute a committee composed of experts from other provinces who will advise us in the matter. Well, in response to what has fallen from certain hon. Members of this House, I wish to do this. I shall initiate discussion at once amongst my hon. Colleagues and consider the question whether this matter which is of such importance to many members of this House and is apparently exercising their minds very much should not be referred to that or some other body of advisers. If the committee arrives at some conclusion, then our responsibility is at an end. So far as the Mettur project is concerned, many caustic observations were made. It has been suggested that the personnel ought to be Indianized. The person in charge of the administration is an Indian and is sufficiently alive to the paramount importance of the consideration. I am willing to encounter criticism of that kind from all quarters of the House. But to say that there should be no money given, that six crores of rupees ought not to be spent, that the project should not be carried on until some other investigations are undertaken is puerile, Mr. President, according to my humble submission.

“ I have been accused of being partial to one or two districts. The position with regard to the Ceded districts was put very succinctly and very forcibly by certain hon. Members. Let me, very shortly, within the time at my disposal, re-state my views on the matter which have been already stated on the floor of the House. I realize that it is the paramount duty of the State not to give money or remit revenue on encountering a famine, but according to the old adage adopt the policy of ‘ Prevention is better than cure.’ Our experts’ advice was that the most profitable site for the location of the Ceded districts reservoir is on the borders of His Exalted Highness the Nizam’s territory and the British territory. His Exalted Highness had very many avocations and preoccupations and we could not get any replies to our letters for a long time. The result has been placed before the House more than once. But thanks to the deliberations of a very capable Committee—I shall not appear to be flattering my hon. Colleagues—thanks to the skill, thanks to the engineering equipment and thanks to the ready sympathy which my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, possesses in such an abundant degree, the committee has recommended, if it is possible, to start a reservoir on the borders of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It is for the investigation of that site that this Rs. 25,000 has been included in the budget. It is not merely as an eye-wash, it is not for the purpose of pretending that we are going to do some work in the Ceded districts which we are not earnestly endeavouring to do. It is for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of a site for starting work on the borders of Bombay and Madras where there will be no such difficulty as correspondence and negotiation with any Indian State. The Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee has also made several valuable suggestions as to other directions in which irrigation facilities may be given. They have suggested the examination of certain other irrigation schemes though small, but according to them of much value. Our difficulty in the past thirty or forty years has been that certain schemes started there have, on account of the porosity of the soil or inadequacy of rainfall, have failed. The Committee which went into the pros and cons of the problem have put forward certain resolutions which I shall deal with in the course of the detailed debate on the detailed irrigation budget.

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

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buildings. Government are to build no more bridges; Government have to construct no more roads. I will allow you the total disappearance of this sum of Rs. 61 lakhs.

"Then I come to pay of officers and establishments, allowances, etc. These amount to Rs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores. They are distributed as follows, allowances for which there are no separate details available being distributed pro rata. Out of Rs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores, charges on account of officers are Rs. 2 crores; charges on account of establishment, Rs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores. If you cut out all the officers, every one of them, and merely pay the establishment, it will come to Rs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores. There will be a deficit of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores at least. Are you going to abolish all your establishments? We have had much talk about unemployment. We have had a special committee appointed to investigate the question of unemployment. One of the contributions to the unemployment problem under the new regime is to be a reduction of Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores in Government establishment. Then I turn to the item of officers. I am trying to reconstruct the budget which has been placed before us by hon. Members of the House on that side in a fragmentary condition. We have been always told that all you have to do is to cut down the pay of officers and reduce their number. Very well. The total amount under officers is Rs. 175 lakhs. Of that sum, roughly Rs. $95\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs go to superior services and listed posts. The balance is for provincial and other subordinate gazetted officers; they include Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Deputy Collectors, Public Works Officers, Deputy Superintendents of Police and so on. Are they to go? Are all these permanent servants to go? Or is it contended that their emoluments and prospects must be diminished and that materially?"

5-15
p.m.

"I think it is an important question; because I think the men at present in the services would like to know how they are going to be paid under the new dispensation, and I think also, Sir, that the young men now in our universities, and in our different educational institutions, and their parents would like to know what, under the new regime, is going to be the prospect and the future before them, should they enter Government service.

"Then, Sir, we are told the remedy to be complete Indianization in the superior services. Well, Sir, let us be rid of the European element; but still you will require Judges, still you will require Collectors, still you will require Divisional Officers, still you will require Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers. You may be able to Indianise the services, and a time will come when you will be able to recruit all your services in India on somewhat lower terms than at present you are recruiting from among Europeans; but still, do you really suppose that you are going to be able to make such a large reduction in the pay of these officers that you will be able, by that means, to balance a budget such as I have attempted to construct from the constructive proposals which have been placed before this House by the Opposition."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Construction is not our business, it is yours."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"Mr. Harisarvottama Rao said that if he were in control of all these things he would come and bargain with me, and bargain for Rs. 1,000 a month. I was astonished for, I never really expected, under such circumstances, that I would be assessed at more than, say,

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a modest sum of Rs. 250. His suggestion, however, does remind me of expedients which under impecunious administrations such as his would have in the past been known to exist, but now put down, that is, the holding up of public offices to auction. I know that the other means by which hon. Members expect to get rid of the precarious financial situation which I have put forward and without any exaggeration would result from the total disappearance of the excise revenue."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. On this side of the House we never suggested the immediate disappearance of the 5½ crores of excise revenue. We said that it must be by definite progressive stages."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to give a personal explanation, and he makes a statement on behalf of this side of the House. I am not able to understand how it is a personal explanation."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I am one of those who suggested that the excise revenue should go, and I submit that if the hon. the Finance Member wants to be fair to us, he must take our statement, namely, that no Member of this party and certainly not I, ever suggested that"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have already said that no Member of the House has got a right to offer a personal explanation on behalf of his party or any other section of the House. If he has got any personal explanation to give regarding the statement which he has made and contrary to which the hon. the Finance Member is saying anything in his speech, he can give it."

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Even in that amended form, Sir, I say that I never said that the 5½ crores of excise revenue should immediately disappear. I said that only a definite portion of it should go and that the whole amount should by definite stages completely disappear. If the hon. the Finance Member wants to construct a budget, as he says, on our figures, let him be fair to us. He always wants others to quote him straight and direct, and I think he should quote straight and direct if he wants to be fair to us."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Sir, I do not think I was not quoting Mr. Satyamurti at all. I have already said that two different expressions of opinion were given which I characterized as a sudden death and prolonged agony. Certainly, for the purpose of my argument they make no difference. I was going to say that this difficulty can be met by substituted taxation. I can only say, as regards substituted taxation, that so far as the general welfare of the taxpayer is concerned, it merely means putting into one pocket what is taken out of another; and that is hardly a good suggestion, so far as I know, for dealing with what is termed the intolerable burden of the public revenue. I quite agree that that is a possible method, but as hon. Members know, the duty of dealing with that problem has been placed on the Finance Committee by the last Council, and so far as I know the present Council also has left it in their hands. It is a most difficult, it is a most complicated, and, may I add, it is the most thankless task. But I do regret that in spite of the financial implications of all these suggestions or criticisms against the budget, I have not to-day or yesterday or the day before heard one constructive suggestion from any hon. Member on the Opposition benches as to what taxation can be substituted to meet these sources of revenue which are going to be lost to us, if their proposals are carried out."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Improve the economic condition before you think of taxation."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" In view of the facts which I have attempted to place before the House, I think I can claim that the budget which is at present before the House does hold the field as against all possible reconstruction that can be made from the criticisms that have been directed against it.

" I have attempted so far to deal purely with its financial aspects ; but may I go further and touch on another subject a little more closely ? One Member of the depressed classes accused me of being personally neglectful of their interests, and he added to that charge by reminding me that at one time for about a year I was in charge of that department which is entrusted with looking after their interests. Now, I look back on that year as one of the most strenuous, one of the most instructive and one of the most useful years which I have spent in a fairly long service in India. One thing it taught me was that there is nothing to despair of and that what are known as the depressed classes are quite capable of taking their proper place in the social and political structure of this Presidency. (Hear, hear.) It taught me that ; but may I ask them, although I am now speaking as Finance Member, to remember that I am speaking from my own experience, I cannot conceive of anything that would be more prejudicial to the cause of the depressed classes than that an impression should arise that money is being spent merely to make a show and not with a view to producing any useful or permanent results. It is far better, may I assure them, that one lakh should be spent on their account to good purpose than that more lakhs should be spent than can really be justified by results. I should greatly regret if they thought that my interest in their welfare was ephemeral and is now merely formal. I think they will also remember that as Finance Member I must be absolutely impartial as between all claim that come before me. If, however, they think that my sympathies have waned, let me assure them my hon. Colleague, the Home Member, who has a big heart, will not let any opportunity be missed by Government which can be seized and add that my hon. Colleague who is most keenly interested in their welfare agrees with me that it is essential that progress, even if slow, should be firm and sure.

" If I have referred to the depressed classes, it is partly as an instance of those claims which we have to meet. Some Members propose practically to throw away the whole of this $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores which we have not yet got on one particular object, while others propose to dissipate 50 lakhs here and 50 lakhs there ; but yet if you total up what could be spent within the next few years, if we can get the money to meet the perfectly legitimate claims and demands for fresh expenditure that have been placed before the House during the last three days, you will realize that a crore and a half is a trifling sum when compared to what we do want."

" I can only echo, in conclusion, Sir, the hope expressed by my hon. Friend the First Minister that we shall not simply fritter away that boon which is at last offered to us and which I surely hope we shall secure."

The Council adjourned at 5-29 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 14th March 1927.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.